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THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,520

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Heads warn of social upheaval

Anti-school bias 'blights lives of boys'

By John O'Leary and David Charter

WHITE working-class boys are getting caught in a vicious circle of under-achievement at school that could lead through truancy to a life of unemployment or crime and eventually cause social upheaval, education experts said yesterday.

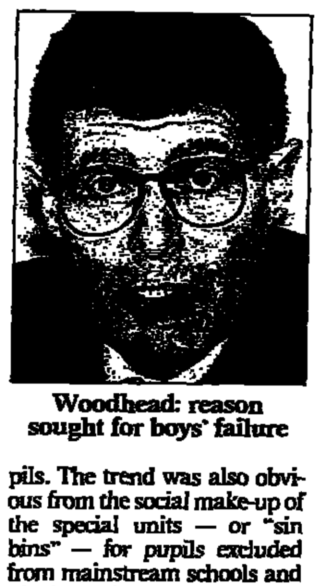
Many boys are leaving school without basic skills, and their failure is described by the Chief Inspector of Schools as one of the most disturbing problems facing the education system.

Girls are now more successful than boys in every subject except physics, and children from almost all ethnic minorities are achieving better examination results than white boys from poor inner city areas, who are now the most likely to be completely unqualified at 16.

Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector and head of the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), says that it is vital that an explanation is found for the boys' failure. Writing in *The Times* today, he points to bleak employment prospects and the absence of male role models in families run by single mothers, while his inspectors lay some of the blame on teachers. In a scathing indictment of schools in poor urban areas, Ofsted says that low expectations and monotonous teaching were contributing to a lack of motivation among pupils.

They concluded that there was evidence of an "anti-education culture" among working-class boys, and academics and head teachers predicted yesterday that social upheaval would follow if attitudes did not change.

An analysis of last year's inspection reports showed that although under-achievement by white working-class boys was most marked in secondary schools, it was becoming apparent among primary pupils. The trend was also obvious from the social make-up of the special units — or "sin bins" — for pupils excluded from mainstream schools and of schools failing inspections.



Woodhead: reason sought for boys' failure

One in eight failing secondary schools was boys-only and Ofsted said that the problems of many more were worse because they had a disproportionate number of boys. No girls-only school has been classified as failing.

Analysis of GCSE results in 12 London boroughs in 1994 showed that white teenagers were lagging behind all but their Afro-Caribbean counterparts, and a more recent survey in Liverpool showed children from ethnic minorities closing the gap on white pupils who have traditionally earned higher grades.

Standards in disadvantaged urban areas were much lower than elsewhere, Ofsted said, and inspectors found a "cycle of under-achievement, low expectation, monotonous provision and poor motivation".

In his *Times* article, Mr Woodhead expresses the fear that there is an explicit anti-educational culture among white working-class boys and says that their disruptive behaviour may be made worse by inadequate parental support. In his annual report, Mr Woodhead said that teachers in disadvantaged urban areas were often distracted by pastoral issues and recognised that many schools in such areas were having to provide support for parents. Today, he suggests that it might be necessary in future to educate children for parenthood.

He also points to the common perception that many minority communities have a greater commitment to education, a view echoed by David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, who said that schools were facing insuperable difficulties arising largely from parental attitudes.

"In some areas, it is difficult to get white parents to meetings and too many boys are slipping into long-term unemployment and criminality," he said. "In the Asian community, particularly, there is an entirely different attitude to education."

Professor Alan Smithers, a government adviser and Professor of Policy Research at Brunel University, said the changing employment scene appeared to have affected many boys' attitudes to school. "Boys' prospects have diminished as their traditional work has dried up, while the new employment markets are more suited to girls' dexterity. It has become unfashionable for boys to work hard."

And while many traditional careers are disappearing, children are failing to acquire the computer skills they will need for new areas of employment, Ofsted said yesterday. Although both primary and secondary schools were enthusiastic about information technology, teachers lacked confidence and their equipment was inadequate.

Chris Woodhead, page 18

SIMON WALKER

Eileen Pembridge, who brought to light allegations of sexual harassment

Lawyers' code of conduct

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

SOLICITORS are likely to be issued with guidelines to help them to avoid allegations of sexual harassment.

Measure to be proposed in a report to the Law Society's governing body this week include the setting-up of a telephone "hotline" for solicitors complaining about how they are treated in their offices. The proposals have been drawn up in an effort to prevent any repeat of last year's furore over allegations of sexual harassment at the Law Society's headquarters.

The report includes a new definition of how solicitors should behave. It says that sexual harassment can take many forms and that it is for individuals to determine what behaviour is acceptable to them and what behaviour they regard as offensive.

However, it proposes guidance for the profession in the shape of a few examples. It explains that sexual harassment can include: unwelcome jokes, innuendoes, or remarks of a sexual nature; unwelcome pressure to socialise outside work; unwelcome physical contact such as kissing, hand holding, groping or petting.

The proposals are certain to provoke a new dispute between the council and Martin Mears, its president and arch-opponent of political correctness. His views are strongly opposed by, among others, Eileen Pembridge, a member of the society's governing council. Mr Mears said yesterday: "I may well have something to say about this on Thursday. I am likely to

Continued on page 2, col 3

Brussels keeps its eye on the ball with dawn raid on FA

By Charles Bremner in Brussels
John Goodbody and Peter Foster

EUROPEAN Commission officials unexpectedly raided the Football Association headquarters in London yesterday in an investigation into a levy on footballs.

According to the commission, the collection of a levy of 80p by FIFA, the sport's governing body, for each football it approves may be a breach of European competition law. FIFA charges the 21 licensed manufacturers of balls in the world 80p for using the words "FIFA approved", 40p for carrying the logo "FIFA inspected", or they can carry free of charge the words "International Matchball Standard".

All professional matches have to be played with a ball stamped with one of the logos, generating a market of about five million footballs a year.

The inquiry was prompted by complaints from sport shops in Germany and the World Federation of Sports Goods Industry (WFSGI) who objected to the higher price they had to charge when the levy became effective in January.

Two Commission investigators and two observers from the Office of Fair Trading arrived without warning at 9am at the Football Association's headquarters in Lancaster Gate, London.

They were empowered under the Community's competition regulations to search the files of the marketing department, of Terry Venables, the England coach, and of Graham Kelly, chief executive.

Similar swoops were carried out at the offices of the French and Danish associations but FIFA itself was not raided because its headquarters are in Zurich, outside the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Willy Helin, a spokesman for the European competition commission, said the raid marked the opening of a full-scale investigation to determine whether the levy breached European law. The Commission needs to know whether pressure is being applied to use logo-licensed balls and whether this discriminates against makers who do not take part.

Mr Kelly appeared bemused. "I thought it was a wind-up. Staff are aghast. It's not very nice to be treated like a common criminal. They are going through our desks looking for documents that just aren't there.

"I am baffled by the whole thing. We have not been doing anything. We do not license footballs and we do not operate the FIFA scheme in any way at all. The officials told us to co-operate or they would get out an injunction against us."

The Commission investigators are expected to return today to inspect more documents at the FA offices.

In Zurich, Flavio Battaini, head of FIFA's legal service, denied the charges. He said: "These raids have come as a surprise to us. The FIFA trademark must be protected. The money will go to the FIFA Youth Fund for the benefit of the sport throughout the world."

An estimated 40 million footballs are sold worldwide every year but only five million are competition balls.

The cheapest Fifa-approved balls cost £9.99, compared with £4.99 for non-approved versions. At the top of range is the Adidas Questra, used in the 1994 World Cup, at £49.99.

Fishing pledge

Ministers promised to win control of Britain's fishing grounds after a ruling allowed Spanish fishermen to sue after they were banned from them......... Page 2

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US censures Ambassador Kennedy after rift over Adams

Smith: infuriated over aides' protest

By Martin Fletcher and Nicholas Watt

JEAN KENNEDY SMITH, the American Ambassador to Dublin, has been criticised by State Department investigators for punishing dissent within her embassy over her past support for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader.

The department's inspector-general found "a clear pattern of retaliation" by Mrs Smith against two diplomats who disagreed with the pressure she put on President Clinton to grant Mr Adams a visa before the IRA ceasefire.

Mrs Smith was said to have been infuriated when the diplomats used the State Department's so-called "dissent channel" to voice their protests. The ambassador considered this an act of "disloyalty" that "undermined her authority", according to a confidential report. The report, which will be forwarded to Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, claimed that the ambassador punished the diplomats by giving them "highly critical" job performance ratings.

The report goes to the heart of differences between State Department stalwarts, who were reluctant to bolster Mr Adams's position before the IRA ceasefire in August 1994, and the Irish American lobby which pressed hard to promote Mr Adams.

Many Irish Americans have criticised the State Department for being too willing to accept the British view on Northern Ireland, with some calling the department "10A Downing Street".

Mrs Smith, a prominent Irish-American and sister of Senator Edward Kennedy, was appointed personally to Dublin by Mr Clinton in 1993. She used her influence with the White House in early 1994 to press Mr Clinton to embrace Mr Adams eight months before the IRA ceasefire. Her persistence helped overcome the opposition of Britain, the American Embassy in London, the State Department, the Justice Department and the FBI.

Mrs Smith responded angrily last year to Unionist claims that she was sympathetic to nationalists. In a letter to *The Times* she denied that she had "long been a supporter of the republican cause". Unionists said last night that the report vindicated their claims about the ambassador.

Mrs Smith said last night that she had nothing to add to a statement she made last week when reports first surfaced of differences within the embassy. The ambassador, who was informed of the *Boston Herald*'s report last night during a trip to the United States, instructed the US embassy in Dublin to reiterate her initial statement. The State Department declined to comment.

MI5 investigates Palestine charity

MI5 is studying police information on alleged links between Hamas militants and a Palestinian fund-raising organisation registered in London with the Charity Commissioners.

Police sources believe up to £1 million a year is being raised by the Palestinians Relief and Development Fund, also known as Interpal. Yesterday Michael Heseltine said that Hamas activists in Britain are being monitored.

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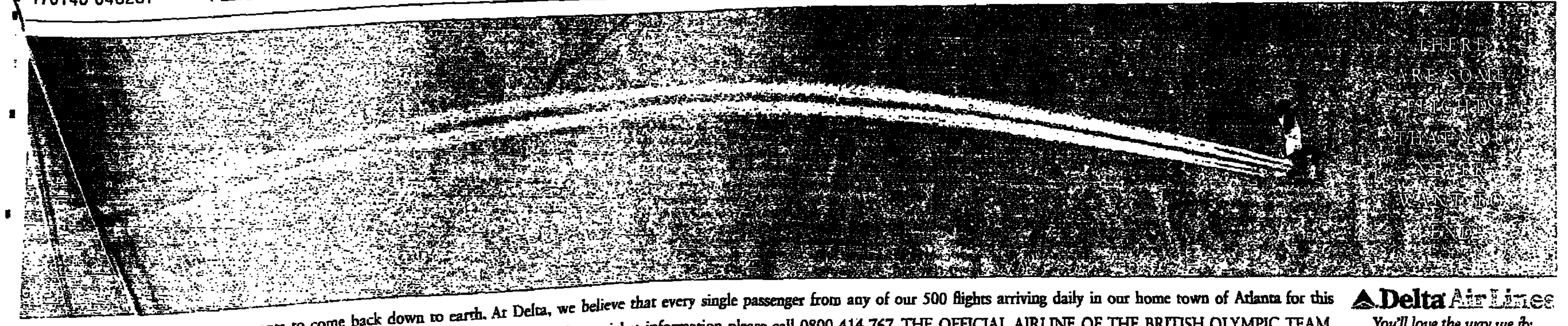

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Squeaking incomprehensibly, two species pass in the dark

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Bats on the opposing sides of the Pennines speak different languages, according to the latest research. Britain's most common bat, the pipistrelle, had been thought to form a single species, but a new study suggests there may be two.

To one side of the Pennines, pipistrelles communicate using a sound system based on 45 kilohertz. They have pointed snouts. On the other side, snouts are snubbier, faces are pinker and the bats pitch their voice at 55 kilohertz. "We have an east/west divide," an expert told the *Today* programme yesterday morning.

That afternoon, experts observing Prime Minister's Questions noted an even more striking dichotomy. MPs have often been thought to belong to a single race, the human race. But study of their snouts, squeaks and general behaviour, suggests not only that they belong to two distinct races, but that these, too, are unable to communicate. Imagine a line drawn from the Speaker's Chair to the door, separating the two sides of the House. This is Westminster's Pennines. To Betty Boothroyd's right lies the land of the Tory bats. These have more pointed snouts and more tailored suits. They squeak at a lower frequency — often close to a grunt — and squabble ceaselessly among themselves.

Yesterday, their Prime Pipistrelle having flitted off to the Far East, they were led by his Deputy, a wily old bat called Heseltine. As so often with this tribe, opening hostilities involved a skirmish with awkward bats on his own side. John Wilkinson (C, Ruislip & Northwood) demanded assurances over Spanish fishing in British waters. Nicholas Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) delivered a menacing squeak on matters European. Heseltine, his radar system alert, took swift evasive action, dodging the question.

Over to the left of the Pennines a large bat with a snubbier nose was checking out his flit path. John Prescott was preparing to fly. "Ask about repossessions," said his briefing note. Every bat behind him had the same instructions. Their Leader was away making a speech about repossessions, and Chief Whip Donald Dewar had arranged that the Parliamentary Labour Party provide the mood music for Tony Blair's extra-Parliamentary utterances. Labour fly in formation these days, controlled by high-frequency messages beamed from their Leader but inaudible to the human ear.

Prescott asked Heseltine about repossessions.

This is where the expert from *Today* would have been fascinated to note the parallels. One bat appeared unable to make sense of the other bat's audio-signals. Heseltine's response — "Tory Government works!" — roused his side to an excited twitter, but hardly answered the squeak from over the divide.

Then Prescott did the same. Ignoring what he had just heard, he jabbered away angrily about the "sheer misery" of homeowners. Those behind him squeaked a rising chorus of support, their faces pinker by the moment. Those opposite squeaked with equal passion on unrelated matters. Both sides twittered on until Madam Speaker called off the hopeless encounter.

"They have separated so much," said the *Today* expert, "that they simply don't recognise each other as the same species any more. One possibility is that at some time in the past, one species was divided by some kind of geological event."

These events are called general elections.

Homeowner's saviour, page 11

Britain challenges Spanish victory on fishing rights

By Michael Hornsby, Arthur Leathley and Charles Bremner

MINISTERS promised yesterday to win control of Britain's fishing grounds after suffering a legal defeat that allows Spanish fishermen to sue the Government for banning them from British waters.

Britain is to challenge its European partners this month to make urgent changes to the law after the European Court of Justice ruled that Britain should not have barred Spanish-registered boats from British waters.

The move came amid growing anger over yesterday's ruling by the court which could force the Government to pay up to £30 million damages to Spanish-owned vessels that it banned from fishing for 15 months six years ago.

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, called the judgment "crazy" and said the Government would insist the issue was discussed at the intergovernmental conference (IGC) on the future of the European Union which opens in Italy on March 29.

Last night backbenchers were putting pressure on ministers to take immediate steps to protect British fish quotas and to give details of government plans to curb the powers of the European Court in a White Paper to be published this month.

One minister said that the court's decision would "whip up a frenzy that we could have done without" in advance of the White Paper. The Government is aware of the sensitivity of the fisheries issue in the wake of December's Commons defeat, when Tory Eurosceptics and MPs with constituency fishing interests sided with Labour.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, indicated the Government's readiness to confront other EU member states over fishing at the IGC when he told MPs of the Government's objections to the court ruling. "It is obviously a decision which we regret and one which we shall certainly take up in the context of the IGC. We believe that there have to be changes."

Mr Baldry said: "The quota-hoppers have got to go. If it requires treaty changes, we will seek treaty changes. If new protocols are needed, we will seek them. But so far as we are concerned, our new charter of the seas is that UK fish should be for UK fishermen. The UK has a quota for the fish we can catch, but clearly it is crazy if, for example, a Spanish-owned, Spanish-crewed and Spanish-skippered trawler fishing out of Spain, landing her catch back in Spain, is able to fish against our national UK quota."

He added: "I do not think there is any head of government in Europe who could stand up and rationally and sensibly justify the nationals of one member state taking the fish of the citizens of another member state."

Gavin Strang, the Opposition spokesman on agriculture and fisheries, said the Government should have acted much earlier. "The common fisheries policy was reviewed in 1992 and the Government missed that opportunity to secure the necessary adjustments."

Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said: "The court's ruling makes nonsense of the common fisheries policy."

The Spanish claims to compensation relate to 15 months in 1989 and 1990 when 90 Spanish-owned vessels were struck off the British register and forced to lay up, an action later judged illegal by the European court.

SIMON WALKER

Earl Spencer after his £50,000 libel win yesterday

Spencer urges sister to try life abroad

By Tim Jones

EARL SPENCER said yesterday that living abroad might help his sister, the Princess of Wales, to get her difficulties into perspective.

He said he and his estranged wife had decided to live in South Africa to find some "breathing space" to assess their lives. The Princess might benefit if she did the same, he told ITN.

Lord Spencer went to South Africa with Victoria, his wife, because "she wanted to get away from things she didn't like in England and top of the list was her treatment by the tabloids". He was speaking after being awarded libel damages of £50,000 against the *Daily Express* over a series of articles which suggested that he was involved in the diamond fraud which led to his friend Darius Guppy being imprisoned.

He said that he did not know how long he would stay in South Africa, but that his wife would probably never return. "We are not planning to get back together again."

His libel action is estimated to have cost the *Daily Express* more than £170,000, including legal fees. He said he had returned to England to make two things clear: "One is that I see this as an important victory after two years of the *Daily Express* trying to wriggle out of it. The other is that I want to make it absolutely clear to all newspapers that, although I live on the other side of the world, I will still fight them if they question my integrity or honesty."

Mr Guppy, who was best man at the Spencers' wedding, was freed last month after serving three years of a five-year sentence for staging an insurance fraud that netted £1.8 million.

Portillo decides to upgrade Tornados

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

THE Defence Secretary has agreed to upgrade up to 100 Tornado F3 defence aircraft with two new air-to-air missiles and an improved radar at a cost of £125 million.

The choice — over a controversial proposal to lease American F16 fighters — will safeguard more than 5,000 jobs at British Aerospace and other sub-contractors.

Michael Portillo's special advisers had recommended leasing the American F16s, arguing that it would be a waste of money to fit new missile systems to the Tornado F3. They said the F16 would provide the RAF with an agile, versatile aircraft before the Eurofighter comes into service from about 2002.

The proposal caused alarm among RAF chiefs and at British Aerospace, which had recommended fitting the aircraft with an American advanced medium-range air-to-air missile (Amraam) and its own advanced short-range air-to-air missile (Asraam). Yesterday British Aerospace officials said the new missiles would guarantee the Tornado F3 a "hit" before hostile aircraft came into view.

In announcing the Tornado contract yesterday, James Arbuthnot, the Defence Procurement Minister, said British Aerospace had been selected to lead the Tornado work. The aircraft is being fitted with a joint tactical information distribution system that allows details of enemy aircraft picked up on radars to be given instantly to the Tornado aircrew.

British Aerospace said that moves would be made to persuade other Tornado customers, such as the Saudis, to upgrade their aircraft with the two new missile systems.

The Tornado F3 will now run through to 2010. It will be replaced gradually by the Eurofighter, which is being developed by Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen's Chapel stays exempt from sex law

The Queen's Chapel at Windsor Castle was declared exempt from sex discrimination laws yesterday when an industrial tribunal ruled that it had the right to turn down a woman for a job in its all-male choir. The chapel can refuse to employ women, upholding 600 years of all-male tradition, due to its ancient charter which effectively excludes it from the Sex Discrimination Act. Dr Joan McDonough, a female baritone who used to sing with the Royal Choral Society, would have been the first woman to be employed as a lay clerk at the chapel since it was founded by Edward III in 1352. Her main duty would have been to sing in the choir.

She had applied for the £4,000-a-year baritone post after seeing it advertised last February in the *Church Times*, but was rejected. Dr McDonough conducted her own case with help from her husband, who is priest in charge at St John the Evangelist in Batley, West Yorkshire. On hearing the decision of the Reading tribunal panel the 38-year-old, from Batley, West Yorkshire, claimed she had secured a "moral victory". She said: "If the church is not at the forefront of good employment practice then I do not believe that it has the moral authority on other issues. I have no regrets about bringing this case because it has brought out into the open, the injustice of all-male church choirs."

Right-to-die hearing

Five of Scotland's most senior judges met yesterday to consider whether doctors should have the right to end the life of a woman who has been in a coma for four years after a bungled suicide attempt. Janet Johnstone, 53, of Allanton, Strathclyde, has been in a persistent vegetative state since she took an overdose. The case has been brought by Law Hospital, Carluke, with the backing of Mrs Johnstone's family, to allow her to die with dignity. Judgment will be announced later.

Disquiet at sentencing

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, is to voice fears tonight that the Government's plans for tougher sentencing could cause injustice. He is expected to argue in a speech that minimum sentences for recidivist burglars and drug traffickers would fetter judges' discretion, and that automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and violent offenders could lead to more murders. But he will make clear that he is not opposed to the plans on constitutional grounds.

Corporate killing offence

Companies whose gross carelessness leads to the deaths of employees or customers should be open to a new charge of corporate killing, the Law Commission recommended yesterday. The Commission called for firms to be liable to an unlimited fine and an order to remedy the cause of death. It said inquiries into recent disasters had shown companies to be at fault, but there had been no successful prosecutions for manslaughter because of the need to identify a culpable individual when taking action.

Drugs factory raided

Police have uncovered what is believed to be one of the biggest illegal drugs factories in Europe, capable of producing drugs with a street value of £15 million each week. The illegal operation, at Newton Flotman near Norwich, had the capacity to produce 600 kilograms of pure amphetamine — or 6,000kg of saleable drugs — per week. Police said the early morning raid followed an operation lasting many months. Four men and a woman were being questioned at Ilford police station in east London last night.

Bar blacklists law firm

The Bar Council has blacklisted the firm of solicitors which sought legal aid for an armed robber to sue police who arrested him. Joseph Hill, the senior partner in the firm, is to appear before a disciplinary tribunal over an allegation of a failure to pay fees to barristers and experts involved in cases. A spokeswoman for the Bar Council said yesterday that there had been a number of complaints from barristers about non-payment of fees due to them from Mr Hill's north London firm.

Police gunman in court

Committal proceedings began yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court against a Scotland Yard marksman accused of blasting a suspected car thief to death. PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, is the first British policeman to be charged with murder while on duty. David Ewin, 38, died a fortnight after he was shot twice while driving a car in Barnes, southwest London, with PC Hodgson clinging to the side of it. Ewin was on release half-way through a five-year sentence for armed robbery.

EU may lift temazepam ban

By Nicholas Wood
Chief Political Correspondent

A GOVERNMENT ban on a popular sleeping pill blamed for hundreds of drug-related deaths could be overturned because it conflicts with European law. Last night, ministers were bracing themselves for another confrontation with the European Union amid fears that they were about to lose a High Court case brought by the manufacturers of temazepam.

Senior Whitehall sources said that there was an "expectation" that the Government would lose the judicial review sought by R.P. Scherer Ltd after the decision in October to stop GPs prescribing gel-filled capsules of the drug. The ban was imposed from January after Michael Forysth, the Scottish Secretary, said that it had created massive profits for drug dealers and been at the root of an appalling crime wave.

Addicts have melted the capsules and injected the fluid — a highly dangerous practice because the gel solidifies in the veins, causing gangrene and leading to amputation of limbs. Ministers are worried that their move will be declared unlawful because the court will rule that, contrary to EU law, their ban went beyond what was necessary to tackle misuse of temazepam.

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Law Society

Continued from page 1

express some degree of scepticism. I can think of better uses of the society's time and resources."

The examples of sexual harassment given in the proposals are intended to help solicitors in their interpretation of a new definition of sexual harassment which the council will also be asked to approve. This defines it as "unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that detrimentally affects the working environment or leads to adverse work-related consequences for the victims of harassment or otherwise affects the dignity of women and men at work".

The measures have been drawn up in the wake of the dispute over allegations of sexual harassment against John Young, then deputy president of the Law Society, last summer. The allegations were first publicised by Ms Pembridge, although she did not name Mr Young. As a result, Mr Young withdrew his candidature from the Law Society presidential elections. In the contested elections that followed, Mr Mears was elected president on a populist and anti-establishment vote.

Since last year, the society's equal opportunities committee has reviewed complaints of sexual harassment involving the profesion and looked at complaints procedures. One proposal is that staff might be trained to give advice and assistance in sexual harassment cases and even that a confidential telephone "hot line" should be set up.

In cases involving members of the society's governing council, the report says that, although the president of the Law Society may seek to resolve minor allegations informally, on balance they should be investigated independently by the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau.

Major goes extra mile to woo firms with eastern promise

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, in Seoul

JOHN MAJOR stepped up his campaign to woo the emerging economies of Asia yesterday as three more Korean electrical engineering companies announced that they have chosen to locate in Britain.

The Prime Minister underlined his determination to build on the growing trade and economic links between Britain and Korea by flying to Seoul at the end of a gruelling tour of Thailand and Hong Kong to hold his third meeting in a year with President Kim Young-Sam.

On a hectic day in the South Korean capital Mr Major attended signing ceremonies for four trade deals with a total of £96 million between British and Korean companies. The new companies will supply components to the electronic giant Samsung, which opened in Cleveland last year with an initial investment of £500 million, expected eventually to grow to £2 billion.

The new deals include a business co-operation agreement between British Nuclear Fuels and Hanjung to supply technology for the building of spent fuel storage casks for Korea. Initially worth about £35 million, it is expected to grow to up to £2 billion.

The three new Korean investors in Britain — Fine Electromechanics, Sung Kwang Electromechanics and Poong Jang — are to locate in the Dearne Valley in South Yorkshire. They take the number of Korean companies who have chosen Britain as a manufacturing base to 19.

In a speech to the Federation of Korean Industry, Mr Major spoke of the enormous increase in economic ties between the two countries; British exports to Korea last year increased by 44 per cent, and Korean exports to Britain by 61 per cent.

He told Korean companies they could expect a warm welcome and would be treated exactly the same as British companies. "The case for coming to Britain is becoming stronger every day," he said.

Pennine beasts on different wavelength

By Paul Wilkinson

SCIENTISTS have discovered that bats in Yorkshire and Lancashire divided along the Pennines three million years before the Wars of the Roses separated their human counterparts.

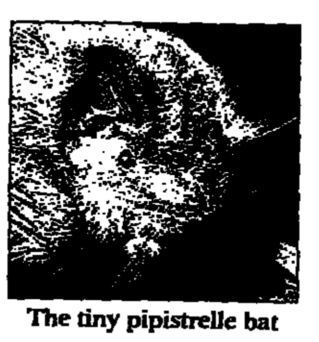
Researchers have shown that Britain's commonest bats, the 2in-long pipistrelles that biologists have always believed to be alike, are in fact two different species. Studies indicate that they are separated neatly by the ancient line of hills.

The scientists have found that the bats from the Ridings even use different wavelengths from their cousins in the red rose county. The discovery was made by Dr Gareth Jones, from Bristol University, who was investigating the bats' "sonar" system.

Further investigation by John Altringham, senior biology lecturer at Leeds University, discovered that the pipistrelles he studied in a forest near Pickering in North Yorkshire all transmitted on 45 kilohertz. Those he watched around Lancaster all broadcast on 55 kilohertz.

He said yesterday: "At first we thought the bats had a range of signals, but closer examination showed they transmit on only one wavelength. They will mix together happily enough, but there seems to be no interbreeding.

"It looks like we have an east-west divide. Both types are found in Lancashire and Yorkshire, but one type is much more dominant in Yorkshire; the other is more dominant in Lancashire."



The tiny pipistrelle bat

Further investigations showed further differences between the bats. Yorkshire pipistrelles seem to be more profligate and live a nomadic lifestyle, while the Lancastrians form more stable maternity colonies. The Lancastrians also have pinker faces and the Yorkists have more pointed snouts.

DNA testing of tissue shows there is enough of a difference to warrant two different Latin names for them. The Yorkshire bat is likely to keep the existing name while the honour of finding a title for the new species will fall to its discoverer, Dr Jones.

Mr Altringham said there was no obvious explanation for the apparent split in the species. "One possibility is that in the very distant past — possibly three million years ago — one species was actually divided by some kind of geological event and the two evolved in isolation. At some later stage they were able to mix again, but they had separated by so much that they simply did not recognise each other as the same species any more."

Mr Altringham added: "We have a lot more work to do. Professionally I find them fascinating. Apart from dolphins they are the only mammals which use echo location, but frankly I just think they are cute."

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British clear film of child sex scenes barred by America

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

A FILM whose depiction of ten-year-olds indulging in sex and drugs was considered so offensive it was refused a general certificate in America has been approved by British censors.

Film critics on both sides of the Atlantic were unable to stomach the violence when *Kids* was shown in specialist cinemas. *The New York Times* said the children indulged in so much sex, it "made rabbits look lazy". Another reviewer said it was the "nearest yet that mainstream cinema has come to so-called kiddie porn". David Robinson, the film critic, described it as voyeuristic.

Kids is to be shown in cinemas around Britain from May 17, after the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) decided to award it an 18 certificate.

The film, which explores adolescent sexuality in New York, features a 14-year-old girl who catches Aids after sleeping with the "Virgin Surgeon" who tries to avoid the disease by restricting himself to virgins. Throughout the movie, children lead promiscuous lives.

For the film-makers, "it offers an unflinching slice of areas of teenage existence which are hidden from parental view — areas of experiment with drink, drugs, violence, sex and petty crime". It is believed that Scotland Yard sent officers from the paedophile and child pornography unit to a private screening. Larry Clark, the director, insisted that none of the actors was under 16, although those cast look younger.

James Ferman, director of the BBFC, said he was justified in allowing the film into this country: "*The New York Times* called this a 'wake-up' call to parents. It is about the fact that totally unsupervised kids are running wild, leading a promiscuous lifestyle. The result is that they just destroy themselves. It is one of the most painful films I have seen in the 21 years I have been doing my job.

"All the relevant tests of British law have been applied, and expert advice has been taken. That advice has not supported the view that the film was pornographic, nor did the board regard it as such."

He added: "As a harbinger of the future, it makes for very depressing viewing, even on this side of the Atlantic, but the board did not feel it appropriate to condemn the messenger for bearing such bad news."

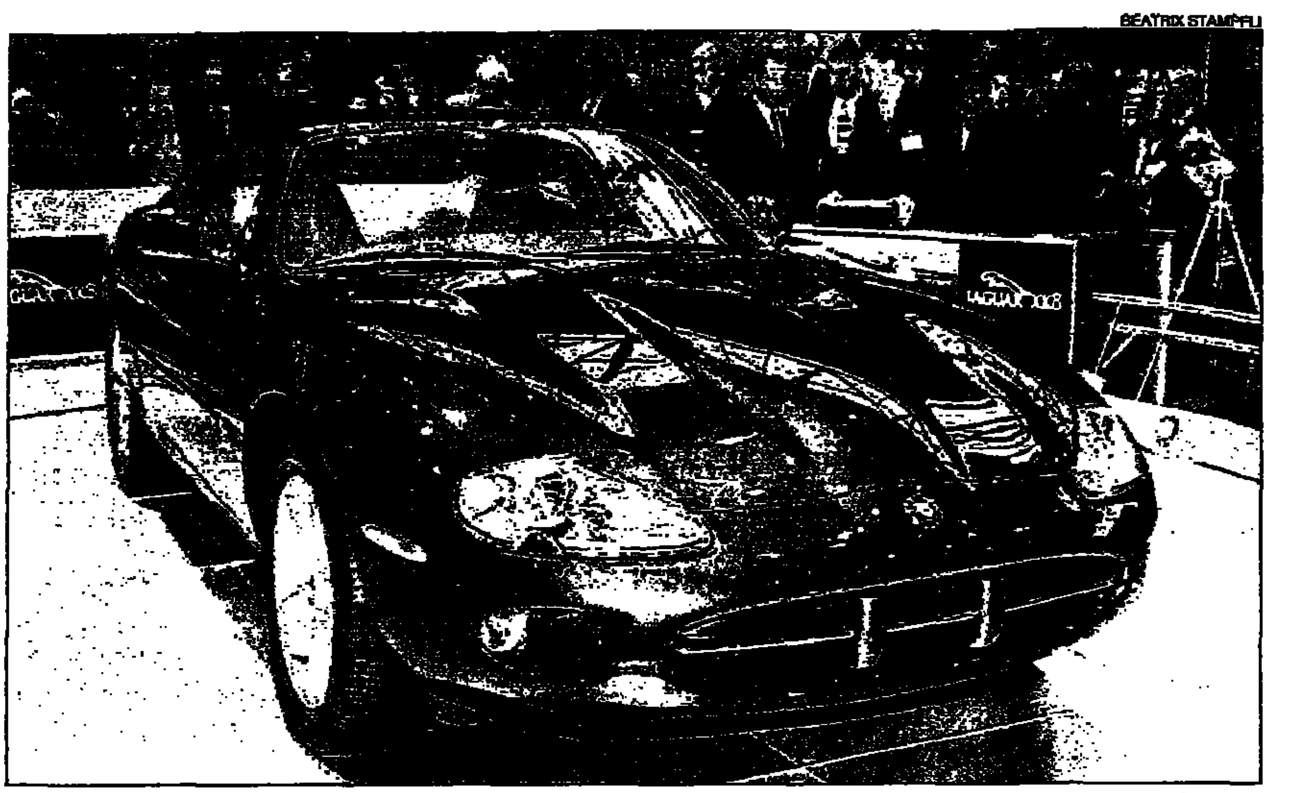
Mr Ferman explained that proof of age was required for all the actors involved in the simulated sex scenes. "None was below the British age of consent; indeed, they were all well above it. Nevertheless, cuts totalling just under a minute were made to remove some shots of minors which were not acceptable under the board's own very strict policy, which has always erred on the side of caution in such matters."

Liz Wrenn of Electric Pictures, the distributors, said: "Larry Clark's film is both highly courageous and strictly moral in its portrait of adolescent life and we are delighted to be releasing such an important landmark film."

Mary Whitehouse, the broadcasting campaigner, said: "I certainly do not agree with the fact that this film has received a certificate. The people who give these films certificates should have more sense, more care and more consideration on the impact these films have not just on children but on the adults too. It takes away their sense of care."

Among recent films that have pushed at censorship barriers in recent years is Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, about the exploits of a couple who terrorise America's South West, murdering 100 victims. The film was alleged to have inspired actual killings in America and France. However, the BBFC found no significant basis for the claims.

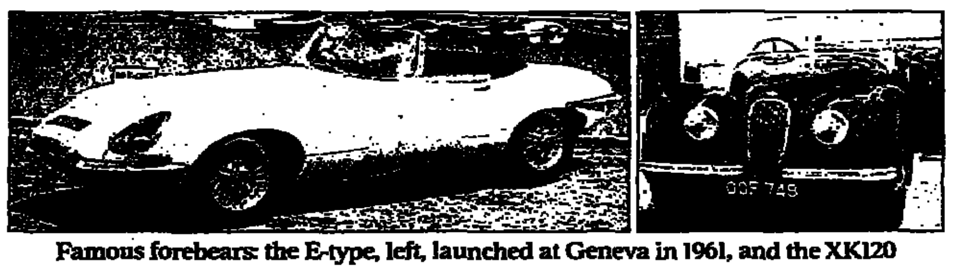
BEATRIX STAMPFLI



The new XK8 at the Geneva Motor Show. Despite nostalgia for past Jaguar sports cars, it has a Ford engine

Jaguar's V8 supercar tempts buyers

By Kevin Eason
Motoring editor



Famous forebears: the E-type, left, launched at Geneva in 1961, and the XK120

CUSTOMERS are queueing to place orders for the new Jaguar supercar unveiled yesterday at the Geneva Motor Show more than six months before it goes on sale. Nick Scheele, chairman of Jaguar, said letters were piling up from people wanting to put their names down for the XK8, which will reach showrooms in October.

The XK8 was launched on a wave of enthusiasm and nostalgia for the maker's great sports cars of the past, even though it is the first Jaguar with a Ford engine — a four-litre V8. Customers have been walking into H.R. Owen's dealership in west London offering deposits without even knowing the car's price, estimated to be about £50,000. Many are willing to swap their current Mercedes-Benz, BMW or Porsche. There will be few tears, however, for the 20-year-old XJS model, which the XK8 replaces. It was a huge disappointment as successor to the definitive Jaguar sports car, the E-type, launched at Geneva 35 years ago.

Mr Scheele hopes the XK8, which will be made as a convertible and a coupé, will be seen as the spiritual descendant of the E-type, the world's first 160mph production car. The XK8 is electronically limited to a top speed of 155mph.Britons can get their first sight of the XK8 at the Royal College of Art in London from Monday until March 20.

L-driver to take 36th test in his own time

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport correspondent

A MAN who has spent ten years and more than £9,000 trying to pass his driving test has launched his 36th and final attempt to cast off his L-plates. Keith Murray, a self-employed publisher, is insisting that his next test, to be taken in April or May in London, more than 500 miles from his Aberdeen home, will be his last.

After posting his application to the Driving Standards Agency yesterday, he said: "I have promised myself that if I fail this time then someone, somewhere is saying "You're not meant to drive'." Mr Murray, 36, who has had 1,450 lessons, and who at one stage spent up to £300 a week on taxis, buses and trains, said that he found the test ritual terrifying.

"The moment the white card comes through the door with the date I'm miserable for weeks," he said. His nerves have worsened with the rising tally of failures and he now dreads the examiner saying: "I'm sorry to have to inform you . . ."

Mr Murray has been failed on virtually every aspect of the test. The reverse parking manoeuvre, introduced in 1990, worries him most.

He is still short of the 48 tests taken by Git Kaur Randhawa, who passed in 1987 after 330 lessons. Because he is scared of flying, Mr Murray will travel to London by train, on a return ticket.

Families may sue over Army cadets who died in fire

By Andrew Pierce

THE families of two officer cadets who died when their Land Rover turned over and burst into flames are taking legal action against the Army, which has so far failed to set up an inquiry.

Last May an inquest jury returned verdicts of death by misadventure on Rebecca Norris, 20, of Maidstone, Kent, and Karen Buttenshaw, 19, of Hunstanton, Norfolk. Karen's father Ian, a lieutenant-colonel who has been a soldier for 30 years, told *The Times* last night: "The Ministry of Defence has stifled, frustrated and blocked every attempt to discover what happened to my daughter. It is disgusting and makes you suspect a cover-up. We have no intention of going away."

At the inquest David Masters, the Wiltshire Coroner, urged a board of inquiry be set up after blaming a faulty petrol cap for the fire that killed the two best friends, who were students at Oxford Brookes University. Mr Masters questioned why Ms Buttenshaw, who was not a qualified driver, was allowed behind the wheel of an army vehicle without supervision.

The sergeant-major who was in charge of the 40 cadets taking part in the exercise on Salisbury Plain in October 1994 did not have relevant off-road instruction qualifications and rescuers were beaten back by flames because three of the seven fire extinguishers did not work.

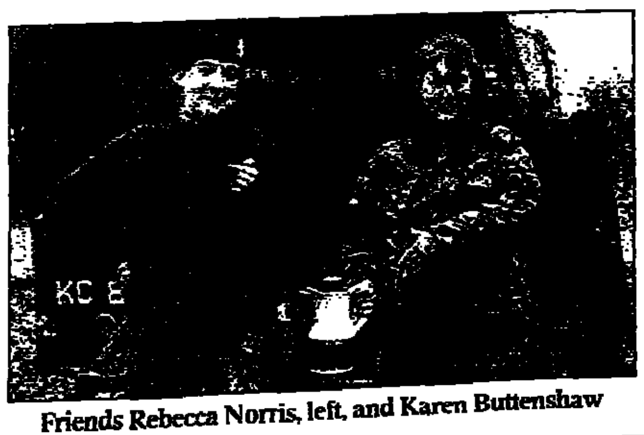
Mr Buttenshaw, 48, a contract officer with the Army of the Sultan of Oman, who served for 15 years in the Zimbabwe Army and 12 months in the British Army, said last night: "I was told I could not attend the board of inquiry. I have not even been told if the inquiry has been set up let alone reported.

"I have been a soldier all my life and know how the Army should behave. I even had to pay my own air fare to Britain when Karen died."

On the exercise the friends were seen laughing and giggling in the Land Rover only minutes before it rolled backwards down a muddy three-in-one hill, somersaulted and burst into flames. Karen died instantly. Rebecca died in hospital four days later.

The inquest was told that the vehicle caught fire because petrol escaped from a fuel cap which had not been properly tightened.

An Army spokesman said: "The board of inquiry has not been finalised but will happen shortly. The families have the right to apply for the results."



Friends Rebecca Norris, left, and Karen Buttenshaw

Bomb-plot animal rights man convicted

By A Staff Reporter

AN ANIMAL rights terrorist who plotted a bombing campaign was convicted yesterday of conspiring to commit arson.

Birmingham Crown Court was told during a five-week trial that David Callender, 37, of Waterloo, Merseyside, had been arrested after a tip-off from a shop assistant who became suspicious when he ordered 60 kitchen timers.

After his arrest, police uncovered a bomb factory at a safe house in Birmingham. Officers found enough devices to plant 100 firebombs and a list of potential targets.

With the bomb-making equipment, detailed plans were found referring to reconnaissance visits to target sites, levels of security and escape routes. Police believe a terror campaign was imminent, which would have caused extensive damage to property and possible risk to life.

The court was told that Callender, who has previous convictions for attacks in support of the Animal Liberation Front, began living at a house in Sparkhill, Birmingham, in 1994.

Police believe that others must have been involved in researching the targets and funding the campaign but have not traced them.

Among the intended targets were an agricultural college, food manufacturers, horse-breeders, foxhound associations, slaughterhouses and the Milk Marketing Board.

Callender had denied conspiracy to commit arson, but the jury returned a guilty verdict after 11 hours. Gregg Avery, 28, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, was acquitted of the same charge. He had claimed that although he was an animal rights supporter he had no idea what Callender was planning. Peter Matthews, the Recorder, adjourned sentence until today.

Widow stays cool as vampire bat kills 57-stone polar bear

THE father of the world's best-known polar bear has died after swallowing a six-inch plastic vampire bat. Barney, father of the Fox's Glacier Mints bear-cub Mintie, collapsed at Edinburgh Zoo, apparently after a child threw the toy into its enclosure.

Last night zoo staff said they were distraught over the death. However, Barney's lifelong partner, Mercedes, was coping well and, if anything, was looking quite pleased, they said.

"Polar bears are animals that generally like to lead solitary lives and this certainly seems to be the case as far as Mercedes is concerned," a spokeswoman said. "Since Barney's death she seems to be a lot more outgoing and is enjoying herself more.

"She no longer has to compete with anyone over who gets first pick at the food and now she gets to sit on the best rock in the enclosure, which Barney had always occupied. She doesn't seem to be a grieving widow."

Barney was 20 years old and weighed more than 57 stone. It had lived at Edinburgh Zoo since it was a cub. A post-mortem examination found the plastic bat in its lower intenstine.

Miranda Stevenson, curator of Edinburgh Zoo, said: "Barney was a handsome and very popular animal, and will be very much missed by all visitors and staff. We hope his death will serve to highlight the dangers of litter both for zoo animals and animals in the wild, and to encourage people to behave more responsibly in this respect."

Barney was born at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in 1976 and was delivered to Edinburgh in 1977. It was joined by Mercedes two years later. The pair had two cubs, including Mintie, a female, which appeared in the Fox's Glacier Mints advertisement in 1989. It was later sent to Antwerp Zoo in Belgium, where it died two years ago amid allegations of neglect.

Barney's skeleton is likely to go on display at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

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Parents left to follow ambulance through blizzard as son was transferred between four hospitals

Judge condemns 'insensitive' NHS over dying boy

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

PAUL SANDERS

Cath and David Geldard with a photograph of their 10-year-old son: "We still think Nicholas may have been saved"

MEDICAL authorities who took a dying ten-year-old boy to four hospitals during a 12-hour ordeal were condemned yesterday for "ghastly misjudgment".

A judge who compiled an official report on his treatment said that he was shocked by his investigation into the case of Nicholas Geldard, who died of a brain haemorrhage. The boy's parents, who drove across the Pennines at night in a blizzard before losing track of the ambulance, which was too full of equipment to carry them, said they were still angry and frustrated and would pursue legal action.

Nicholas was refused a scan because a £1 million machine, bought by public subscription to which the Geldards had donated, was available only in office hours. The radiologist on call could not be contacted at a hospital Christmas concert rehearsal.

Nicholas was transferred from Manchester to Leeds, where his family expected him to have an operation, though he was probably already brain-dead by the time he was put into the ambulance.

Judge Bill Ashworth condemned the family's experiences at the hands of the National Health Service while accepting that Nicholas's brain condition, a ruptured aneurysm, was so rare that he probably would have died anyway. The case "revealed a curious mix of praiseworthy staff commitment, idiosyncratic call-out arrangements, ghastly misjudgment and insensitivity in sending Nicholas to Leeds General Infirmary, and a ponderous bureaucracy that bedevils clinicians seeking paediatric neurological and neurosurgical advice and treatment".

Nicholas had been playing with a friend on his computer at home last December when he was found by his mother unconscious and gurgling, his eyes shut and teeth tightly closed. When they were in the ambulance on the way to Stockport Infirmary, a paramedic allegedly said to his colleague: "Let's put on the blue light so's you can get home early for your tea."

At 5.11pm Stockport Infirmary asked for Nicholas to be urgently transferred to the paediatric ward at Stepping Hill Hospital, 2½ miles away, but it took more than an hour to find an ambulance. Nicholas eventually arrived at 6.42pm. "We were surprised to learn that the ambulance department working definition of 'urgent' is between one and four hours," the judge said.

At 9.31pm the switchboard was asked to contact the radiologist to see if he could perform a scan at Stepping Hill. The radiologist could not be contacted because he was at the rehearsal, carrying his own radio pager whose number was on a switchboard notice but had been crossed out. The switchboard only had the numbers of two hospital-supplied pagers that he was not carrying.

The clinical director of radiology, who was not on call but was particularly experienced in emergency scanning, was contacted but was unable to leave his three children at home. He pointed out the scanner did not operate around the clock, a situation described by the judge as absurd.

Ann Coffey, Labour MP for Stockport, told the inquiry the public had not been told that the scanner it raised more than a million pounds to buy in April 1994 was unavailable at night because the health service could not afford to run it.

Nicholas arrived at Hope Hospital, Manchester, at 2.35am where he was given a scan, but because there were no paediatric intensive care beds available in Manchester, Liverpool or Sheffield, he was driven to Leeds where he arrived at 4.30am. "We were shocked to learn that distressed parents were left to drive 55 miles through a snowstorm at three o'clock in the morning to a hospital in a strange city," said the judge, who is chairman of East Lancashire Health Authority and whose inquiry was commissioned by the North West Regional Health Authority.

Nicholas was probably brain-dead by the time he arrived at Hope Hospital and the five-strong inquiry team strongly felt it was remiss of staff not to ask Nicholas's doctor to reconsider whether he should travel to Leeds. Cath Geldard, Nicholas's mother, said last night: "We do not think the inquiry team listened carefully to the points we made. Many of the complaints we lodged have not been answered and we still think Nicholas may have been saved."

☐ Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will today announce measures to improve intensive care units. The Commons announcement, which follows a year-long review ordered by his predecessor, Virginia Bottomley, is expected to tackle bed shortages, define intensive care and provide guidelines for the admission and discharge of patients.

Bed shortage blamed for Leah organ move

Leah Betts: died after taking Ecstasy at party

By Stephen Farrell

THE liver of Leah Betts, a teenager who died after taking Ecstasy, was sent to Spain because there were too few intensive care beds in British transplant centres. Two of the seven specialist hospitals capable of carrying out a liver transplant operation had no intensive care beds available but only Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridgeshire is known to have had a patient waiting, it was disclosed yesterday.

Professor Sir Roy Calne, consultant surgeon at Addenbrooke's, joined Leah's parents in condemning the shortage. "We were one of the hospitals which had to turn it down. The lack of intensive care beds, both in transplant and general surgery, is a very real problem," he said. Sir Roy, who carried out Britain's first liver transplant operation 30 years ago, wrote to *The Times* last month, criticising the lack of beds and doctors.

"Fortunately in this case the liver was used by someone in Spain so it's not a tragedy. But it's a shame that it couldn't have been used by a British patient. I have now had to turn down 29 livers in just over a year because of a shortage of intensive care beds. In that time we have had 11 patients die on the waiting list."

Leah died on November 16 after taking Ecstasy on her eighteenth birthday at her parents' home in Latchingdon, Essex.

Vanessa Morgan, transplant co-ordinator for North Thames Region, insisted the authority followed standard procedure and notified all seven liver transplant centres in Britain first. When they were unable to use the organ, she offered it to continental Europe through the Euro-Transplant service. She confirmed that of the seven transplant centres two had no beds and two were unable to take Leah's liver because surgeons were working on other cases. The other three had no suitable patients.

"Obviously if you can't place it in Britain you do feel a little bit disappointed, but then you just feel so relieved when Europe does take it. It is awful if you have to say to a family which has made the very brave decision to donate: 'I'm sorry, there were no recipients anywhere'."

Leah's parents did not know the liver had gone abroad. Her father Paul, 49, said: "I am glad it gave someone a new life. What does give me concern is that we are supposed to have the best health service in the world and yet there appear to be a lack of beds for transplant patients. Why couldn't it have been used here?"

Cancer patient given new liver, pancreas and bowel

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

A MAN aged 23 with advanced cancer has had a triple transplant in an attempt to save his life. Haldene Butler, of Omagh, Co Tyrone, received a new liver, pancreas *and bowel in the radical* operation, never attempted in the United Kingdom before.

Mr Butler was suffering from a rare cancer that had spread to his internal organs. He had undergone several operations in Belfast before being flown to St James's University Hospital, Leeds, where a spokeswoman said the night-time transplant was "his last chance".

The eight-and-a-half hour operation was performed last week after a donor became available. Steve Pollard, the surgeon who led the team and *who specialises in* liver and small bowel transplants, said: "This is the first time a triple transplant has been carried out in the UK, possibly in Europe and maybe even in the world."

He added: "The operation was less difficult than we anticipated and it went very well. We're delighted that Mr Butler has adapted well to his new organs." He was assisted by Peter Lodge, who specialises in pancreas transplants.

Mr Butler is expected to be up and about within days. If his progress continues he could leave hospital in about a month.

Walter and Lila Butler, his parents, are at his bedside with Julie Feather, his financée, who said: "Before the operation the rest of us were running round panicking, but he was wonderful."

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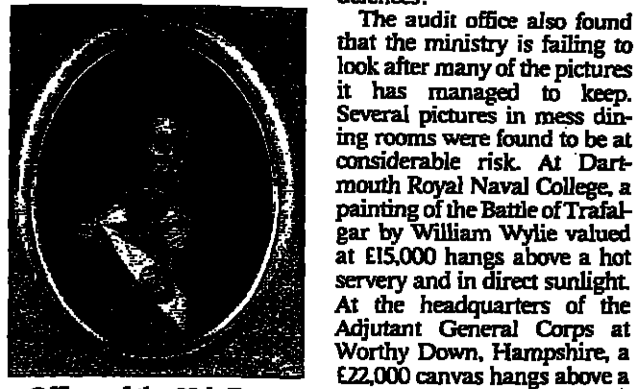
One fifth of MoD's art collection goes Awol

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence has "lost" almost 200 works of art, one fifth of its entire collection. The paintings, prints and drawings have gone absent without leave from official military residences, messes and even the offices of defence ministers. One print disappeared from a flat used by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, in 1991.

The value of the missing works of art is not known, but the ministry's collection of about 900 items is worth in excess of £5 million. Several of the missing items are of "priceless historical rather than financial value".

The ministry realised in late 1994 that it did not know the whereabouts of 205 of the 900 works of art in its care. Inquiries subsequently located 21 of the 205 pictures. Of the other 184, only 23 are officially recognised as "stolen", the remainder are "lost in action".


Officer of the 28th Foot, which vanished in 1992

A ministry spokesman said: "The problem is one of record keeping. We think we've still got them but we are trying to find out where." MoD police have investigated many of the cases but no arrests have been made and no items recovered.

The National Audit Office, the independent watchdog of public expenditure, issued guidelines yesterday for the better management of the collection. Among the cases its report highlighted were:

☐ An 18th-century portrait of an officer of the 28th Foot Regiment, missing from the offices of the Quartermaster General. His office was moved from London to Andover in 1992 and the picture, on loan from the National Army Museum, has not been seen since.

☐ A print of the Admiralty boardroom by Thomas Rowlandson, missing from the room since 1991.

☐ Ten sketches by Count D'Orsay stolen from the office of a civil servant at Northumberland House in June 1988.

☐ Six lithographs of 19th-century parliamentarians by the *Vanity Fair* cartoonist Spy, stolen in November 1989 from a senior civil servant's office at Northumberland House.

☐ Five paintings lent to the School of Infantry, Warminster, not seen for 28 years.

☐ A print missing since 1991 from the flat in Admiralty House used by Mr King. The ministry is "continuing to look" for it.

David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "If defence ministers cannot even look after the departmental art collection, how can we expect them to manage Britain's defences?"

The audit office also found that the ministry is failing to look after many of the pictures it has managed to keep. Several pictures in mess dining rooms were found to be at considerable risk. At Dartmouth Royal Naval College, a painting of the Battle of Trafalgar by William Wylie valued at £15,000 hangs above a hot servery and in direct sunlight. At the headquarters of the Adjutant General Corps at Worthy Down, Hampshire, a £22,000 canvas hangs above a working fireplace.

A ministry storeroom housing more than a hundred works of art awaiting was found to have potentially harmful humidity.

The ministry has agreed to make its inventory more accurate and to conduct checks on works of art. It has appointed a specialist curator and has promised Sir John Bourn, the Auditor and Comptroller General, that it will "continue efforts to find the missing works".

☐ *Sir Denis Mahon, one of Britain's most respected art historians, has donated £10,000 towards the £3.5 million needed to keep a 17th-century Italian masterpiece in Britain. Guercino's Erminia finding the wounded Tancred* had hung at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire since 1772. Heritage groups have nine days left to match the price paid by the Getty Museum in California.

Leading article, page 19

GEORGE CRANE

The Nomad Players of East Horsley celebrate outside their dilapidated theatre

Lottery cash buys stage presence for cowshed actors

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A VILLAGE amateur dramatics society is to move from a leaking cowshed to a purpose-built new theatre after being awarded almost £1 million of National Lottery funds.

The Nomad Players at East Horsley, Surrey, have received £911,000 to replace their present makeshift building with a modern design complete with enlarged stage, rehearsal room and 120-seat auditorium.

Geoffrey Partridge, the treasurer, said that they had been spending £4,000 a year on the shed "to hold it together": audiences could stick their arms through the walls. "On a winter's night, cold air comes in from Siberia and engulfs the audience."

The Arts Council, which had already given £50,000 to improve the theatre design, was impressed by their activities. Educational programmes and a theatre club involve hundreds of local enthusiasts. The age range of their 130-strong cast, currently rehearsing *The Importance of Being Earnest*, extends from young children to a 93-year-old. Actresses such as Lia Williams are among many who have gone on to professional careers.

In contrast, two leading professional theatres in the area, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford and the Redgrave Theatre in Farnham, are short of funds. The Yvonne Arnaud will go dark within weeks, despite high-profile campaigning by Sir Derek Jacobi and Dame Judi Dench, and the Redgrave Theatre closed 15 months ago.

Mr Partridge said: "It's tough. But we're not in competition with them. We're helping to provide an audience for them in the future."

Bill Pearson, who has been involved with the Nomad Players for more than 30 years, said he sympathised with struggling professional theatres but added: "I believe we are deserving of the money we have received. I think we are the sort of organisation that the lottery is looking to fund. We have a long tradition of community drama."

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

32-page summer style supplement

Ginny Dougary meets Clive Anderson

Robert Crampton on dog lovers, a breed apart

REITH LECTURE

Hidden snares of the spoken word

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE linguistic traps that lie in wait to snare the unwary speaker were uncovered last night by Jean Aitchison in the final offering of her series of Reith Lectures.

These snares are rooted in language and in the role that language plays in our lives, Professor Aitchison said. Man's oddest characteristic, compared with his nearest animal relations, is not his relative hairlessness, nor that he blushes. It is, as Professor Aitchison emphasised, his language.

The professor, who holds the Rupert Murdoch chair in Language and Communication at Oxford University, said that, unlike animals, "all normal humans can produce and understand any number of new words and sentences". But "the huge choice available to us also sets up snares".

Distinguishing between these worries and the "pseudo-worries" to which she referred in her first lecture, Professor Aitchison suggested that if speakers cleared their minds of "such anxieties as split infinitives, then they might have more energy left to notice genuine pitfalls". These are the traps that humans either make for themselves, or have made for them by skilful persuaders — persuasion being, in the professor's opinion, one of the original uses of language.

The most straightforward of these snares is the "gobbledegook syndrome". The professor defines gobbledegook as pretentious or unintelligible jargon, although it must not be confused with technical vocabulary.

"Politically correct terms are sometimes labelled gobbledegook, but this is not entirely justified," she said, observing that "PC hearts are in the right place, even if their tongues or pens are twisted up in sesquipedalian words".

Just as "gobbledegook delays understanding, and can also cause misunderstanding", the professor gave warning against the effects of facile word associations. Equally, she identified a powerful "frog-in-a-well problem". The reference is to a Chinese folktale about a frog that has lived all its life in a well. "One day it hopped out and was astonished to find what a limited view of the world it had always had."

An example of this is the use of generic "he" supposedly to refer to either sex. This, Professor Aitchison argues, "is far from neutral": studies show that women derive from this usage a sense of exclusion. (It should be noted that Professor Aitchison's "martians" — who in her book *The Articulate Mammal* descend to Earth to observe our language — are always female.)

Her most abstruse argument related to metaphors and the dangers they conceal. "The phrase 'nuclear umbrella' might lead people to assume that nuclear devices are safety equipment," she said.

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Missionary group ponders ways to spend £92m windfall

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

A LITTLE-KNOWN missionary organisation has leapt into the top 30 of the British *charity league with a windfall* of £92 million from the sale of a plot of land in Hong Kong.

The Council for World Mission, based in Westminster, with a British staff of just 15 and 62 missionaries worldwide, has *found* itself overnight ranked ahead of the British Red Cross in terms of investment income. The land had been bought from the Crown by the London Missionary Society in 1887, and two hospitals were built on it. In 1977 the Council for World Mission superseded the London Missionary Society. Three years ago, the Hong Kong administration moved the hospitals to another site and the council sold the land for £135 million.

Although well outranked by the Church of England, which has assets of £2.4 billion, the council will now become a central player on the British and world Christian scene after being ranked No 29 in the Henderson Top 2,000 *Charities* 1996. Members have called an extraordinary meeting in July to decide how to spend the cash.

A 12.5 per cent portion of the £135 million was given to a private hospital trust for medical and *chaplaincy work* in Hong Kong and nearly a quarter has been used to set up a churches' trust in Hong Kong and China. Even after this beneficence, the Council for World Mission has found itself with £92 million — 65 per cent of the total sale.

"The injection of at least £92 million capital resources will make an enormous difference to the council's charitable potential," Dr Andrew Morton, the communications director, said. "So many requests in the past have been turned down for lack of funds; that situation will obviously change."

The council, hitherto one of the less financially significant of the British registered charities, with an annual operating budget of £2.5 *million and* trust funds of £7.1 million, dedicates its resources to education, personnel and financial help for its member churches. Its main countries of activity are Botswana, India, Madagascar, *the Solomon Islands* and Taiwan. Its member churches also have missionaries in Jamaica, Korea, Nauru, Tuvalu and elsewhere.

It has six member churches in Europe, including the United Reformed Church, the Congregational Federation and the Presbyterian Church in Wales, and 24 outside.

Through its action and solidarity fund, the council has offered financial help to those affected by the volcanic eruptions in Papua New Guinea, the earthquake in India in 1994 and the recent drought in Zimbabwe. It has funded a maize mill in Malawi and a cattle farm in Samoa.

GEORGE CRANE

Steven Hanson with Simon: "He was desperate to get out of the school"

Runaway pupil kept diary of year's bullying

By Bill Frost

BULLYING at school drove a 12-year-old boy to run away from home, his father said yesterday after reading details of the child's suffering in a diary.

Simon Hanson, of Woolmer Hill County Secondary at Haslemere, Surrey, vanished on Sunday. He was found asleep on a bench at Gatwick on Monday. Steve Hanson, his father, said: "A group of kids had been bullying him for about a year and he was desperate to get out of the school."

Mr Hanson discovered that his son had kept a diary. Entries in the hardback dark blue book — "Personal Diary! 1996. Do not read my diary, it is private!!" — spelt out how miserable his life at school had become. "This past week has been hell which is pretty normal. I go through each day as it comes, that's the only way really because each day is like hell on earth.

"You know the usual stuff, nasty comments, rude names, getting punched, kicked — and this is like a daily routine. It's roughly the same day after day, week after week and month after months — and there is no one I can tell. I've got to move schools soon — life at Woolmer Hill is certainly *not going to get better, it's* going to get worse."

Another entry told how Simon was persecuted on the rugby field. "I never got passed the ball. I was just standing there like a lemon and then xxx [the name of a pupil] started shouting at me and calling me names so I shouted 'Stop calling me names'.

"When suddenly the ball came my way I missed it and the teacher pulled me out and told me I wasn't taking part properly. I tried to tell him xxx was shouting at me but he sent me around the football pitch so I missed out on the lesson and xxx got away free."

Mr Hanson, a social worker, was aware of his son's problems but not of their severity. "I had been writing some transfer forms but had put it off because I *thought* he cannot go on running away from his troubles. Then, only recently, I found a note which he had written, saying something along the lines of 'How can I go on in this living hell?'

> ‘Each day is hell on earth: rude names, punches, kicks. There is no one I can tell’

He has run away before but has always come back after a couple of hours. I thought this would be another token couple of hours." Mr Hanson said that he would seek to move his son to another school as soon as possible.

Alan Shean, Simon's *Headmaster, said that* he was surprised by claims that protracted bullying had compelled the boy to run away. "He has appeared happy. The only concerns that were brought to my notice in the past were dealt with promptly and to the best of my knowledge to the satisfaction of both Simon and his father."

☐ A junior school has trained *12 children to deal with play*ground arguments and name-calling. Under a scheme planned by pupils, two are on duty each day in red sweatshirts blazoned with Buddy across the front.

They have been given role-play training at the 250-pupil Matthew Arnold school in Toxteth, Liverpool, to help them to cope with a range of situations.

Brother finds boy, 12, hanging from bunk

A BOY was found hanging by his school tie from a bunk after being accused of theft.

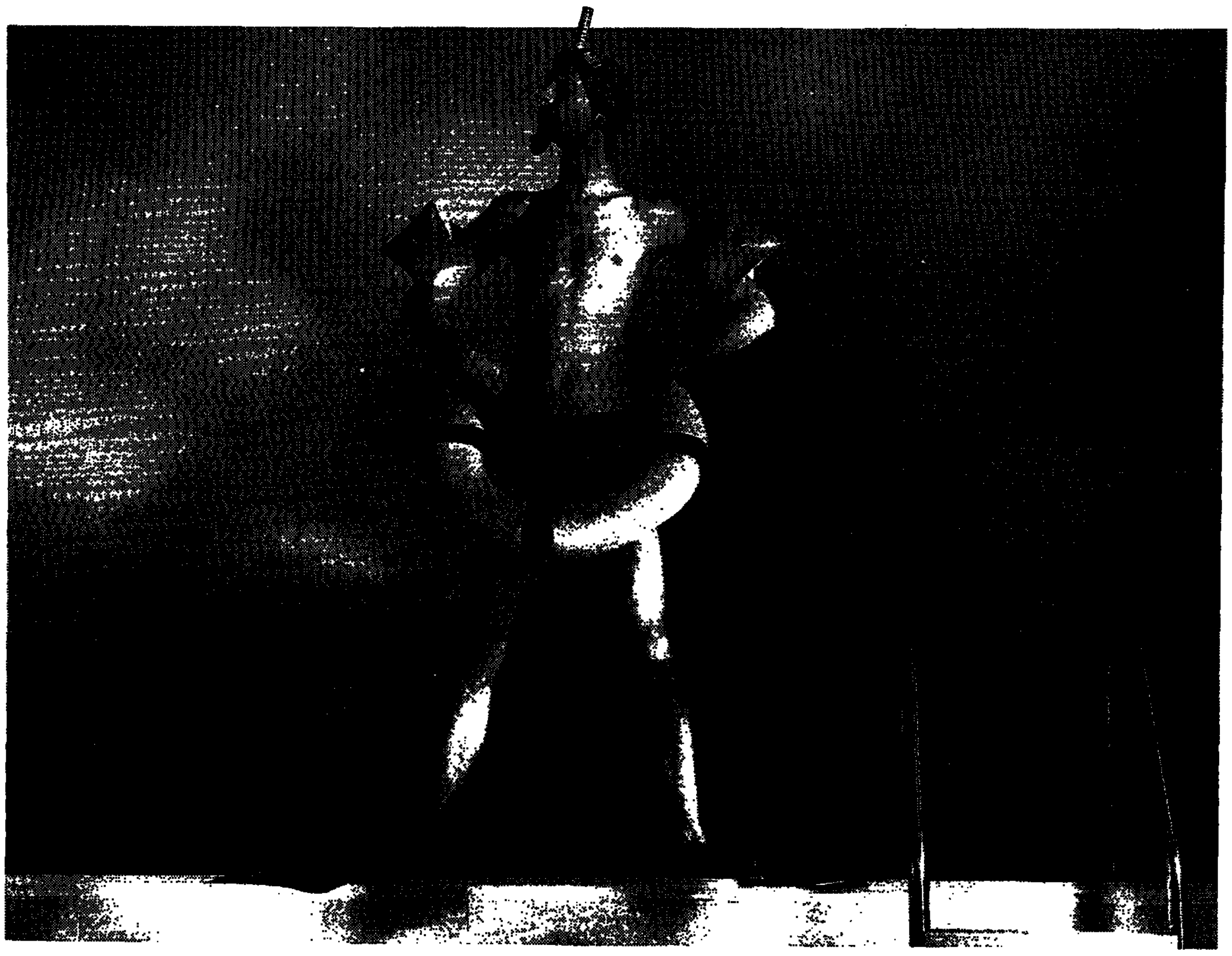
Andrew Smith, 12, was found in his bedroom by Adam, his 10-year-old brother, *on Friday. Andrew had been* accused by a man of stealing the badge from the bonnet of his car near his school in Seaham, Co Durham, during the lunch break on Thursday. The boy, who was not a known troublemaker, was taken back to school by the man and was given a stern reprimand. The police were called to investigate.

When Jeanette and Allan Smith, his parents, heard about the incident, Andrew was sent to bed early. He was found dead the next day.

Durham police could not confirm whether Andrew's death was *suicide or an* accident. A spokesman said: "We were trying to make arrangments to speak to Andrew with his parents but had not done so at the time he died. He was not arrested for any offence at any stage."

A special assembly was held to break the news of Andrew's death to his classmates at Seaham Comprehensive School.

Lifesavers wanted.



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QUESTION: Is it true that we are spending £101 MILLION OF PUBLIC MONEY on a BYPASS around NEWBURY that will make little difference to most journey times, that will do considerable damage to protected countryside and heritage sites, that goes against the formal recommendations of our official advisors and that we haven't fully investigated cheaper and effective alternatives to the town's traffic problems?

ANSWER: Yes, Minister

In 1988, a Public Inquiry gave the go-ahead for a second bypass around Newbury. The Government's preferred route was the one which its own Landscape Advisory Committee warned would cause "quite unacceptable" damage to an "intimate landscape".

LOOK WHAT THE GOVERNMENT BYPASSED THEN...

The Inquiry was not allowed to examine the need for the bypass, or alternatives to it. They were missing a lot of other information too. Is this democracy?

LOOK WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BYPASSING NOW...

A lot has changed since 1988. Look below to discover just how much.

BYPASSING OFFICIAL ADVICE

- The Government's Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Roads Assessment concludes that new roads can generate more traffic in three types of case. The Newbury bypass fits two of them.

- In 1994, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution reported that the unrelenting growth in traffic represents "possibly the greatest environmental threat facing the UK", and recommended that targets should be set to reduce car use and increase other forms of transport.

- The National Rivers Authority *objects to the design of the road's proposed river crossings.*

- The Government's *Highways Agency* admits that "For local traffic [in Newbury] the urban area around the A34 is congested and will remain so on completion of the bypass".

- The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommends that the Government "investigate whether some towns and villages could obtain most of the benefits of a bypass more cost-effectively and with less environmental damage, through traffic management measures".

- The Highways Agency admits that, if the bypass attracts 20% extra traffic (as is likely), then the benefits of the bypass for most of Newbury would last only five to seven years after the road opens.

- English Heritage designates the 1st Battle of Newbury (1643) Civil War battlefield site as one of the most important battlefields in the country. The road goes through it.

- The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution *recommends that all transport policy decisions* "be based on the identification and pursuit of the Best Practicable Environmental Option".

BYPASSING GOVERNMENT POLICY

- The Government launches its 'Great Transport Debate' to help develop a sustainable transport policy.

- The Department of the Environment issues Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 (PPG13), which advises local authorities to reduce growth in the length and number of motorised journeys, to encourage alternative means of travel with less environmental impact, and to reduce reliance on the private car.

- In 1993, the Government cancels the proposed trunk road through Oxleas Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest because it fails to meet the "high environmental standards we [the Department of Transport] now apply to new road schemes".

- In 1992, John Major signs the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which commits nations to conserve their range of wildlife habitats and species.

- The European Union's directive on the conservation of wildlife habitats and species enters into force. Species and habitats that need to be protected are found on the route of the bypass.

- The Government's Sustainable Development Plan emphasises the importance of managing traffic demand, and cutting traffic levels.

- The Government publishes the report of its Biodiversity Steering Group. The report proposes targets for the conservation of many rare animals and plants. Several are found along the route.

- A Berkshire County Council transport strategy expresses *four main themes:* "cycling and walking, public transport, parking policy, and traffic management and constraint". Building new roads is not one.

BYPASSING RESPECTED WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds opposes the road.

- The British Council of Archaeology opposes the road.

- The World Wide Fund for Nature opposes the road.

- The Wildlife Trusts opposes the road.

BYPASSING PUBLIC OPINION

- The Government responds to 'widespread public concern' and in December 1994 began a one-year-long review of the road. The review was held in total secrecy, with no public participation, and cut short by almost six months. The decision to proceed was announced three hours before Dr Mawhinney left his post as Secretary of State for Transport.

- In February 1996, over 7000 people join a peaceful protest walk along part of the bypass route. This is the biggest anti-roads rally the UK has ever seen.

- In 1995, a local questionnaire survey in the Newbury area finds that 70% of local businesses who responded oppose building the road before alternatives are tried.

BYPASSING COMMON SENSE

- Independent transport consultants analyse official transport figures and conclude that the road will provide 5-7 years' benefit before traffic rises to the present level.

- Friends of the Earth use the threat of legal action to force the Highways Agency to release figures that "justify" the road. The figures reveal that the bypass will save off-peak vehicles (the majority of drivers) only 2 minutes on a *north-south trip* via Newbury.

- Highways Agency figures reveal that 70% of the traffic on the existing A34 in Newbury is local traffic. The bypass will not relieve the congestion caused by it.

- Friends of the Earth commissions independent transport consultants (who have also advised the Government) to work out alternatives. Proposals have been drawn up to relieve Newbury's congestion. These could be implemented at a fraction of the cost of the road, and with no damage to protected countryside.

- It emerges that the Midlands to Southampton railway line can be upgraded to take many of the freight vehicles that drive through Newbury for £30-50 million. A convenient service can be introduced in the time it would take to build the bypass.

- Government research shows that levels of low-level ozone, the pollutant most linked to asthma, are often *higher away from major roads.* The population of Newbury cannot expect relief from this pollutant as a result of the bypass.

BYPASSING LEGAL CONTROLS?

- Compaints are made to the European Commission over the British Government's failure to properly assess the environmental impacts of the road in accordance with European law.

- The European Commission's Ombudsman decides to admit a complaint that could lead to formal proceedings against the Government for breaches of environmental directives.

BUT THE ROAD DOES NOT BYPASS THE NATION'S HERITAGE

- In 1995, the River Lambourn is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The road goes over the SSSI and will obliterate adjacent marshland nature reserve and flood plain habitats under embankments nearly 200 metres wide.

- In 1995, the River Kennet is recognised as the most biologically diverse river in lowland England and is duly designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The road goes over the SSSI and obliterates adjacent floodplain habitats under embankments nearly 200 metres wide. Further habitat is lost to gravel pits dug to build the road.

- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds recommends that Snelsmore Common Site of Special Scientific Interest be protected under the European Union's 'birds directive' because of the nightjars that live there.

- New research demonstrates that traffic noise *prevents songbirds from breeding up to one kilometre from main roads.*

- Because there is no proper biological survey, colonies of dormice living in on the route of the bypass are not found until six years after the decision to build the road is taken. Dormice are now rare, and are protected under British and European conservation laws.

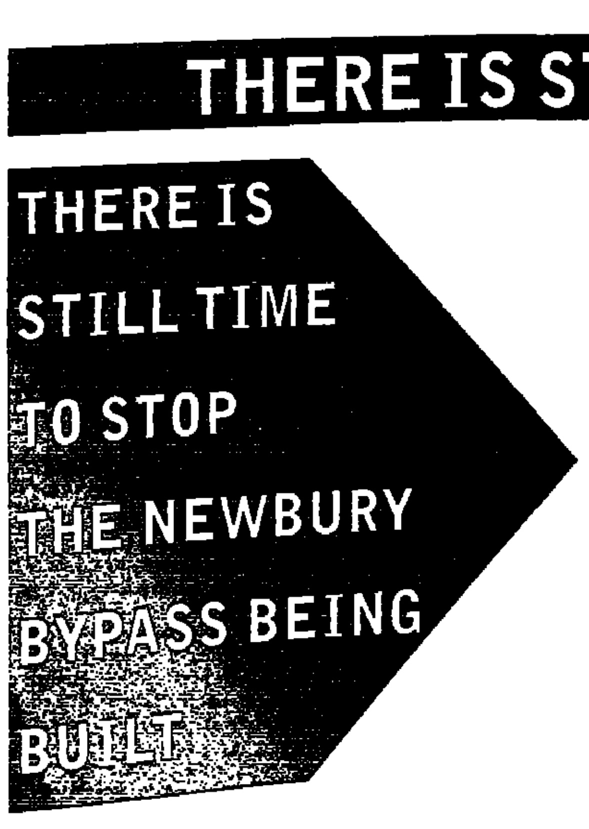
- A rare snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)*, is found in large numbers near the route in what could be its British stronghold. The snails are protected under European conservation law, but could be affected by changes to their marshland habitat if the road is built.

- *Badgers and their setts are protected from* disturbance by the law. Despite earlier surveys by the contractors working for the Highways Agency, badgers and their setts are found on the route during initial clearance work.

- Despite protection under European law, bat roosting sites are removed by contractors.

- 12 sites of archeological significance have been discovered in the path of the road. One in the Lambourn valley with mesolithic remains, is believed to be of national importance.

THERE IS STILL TIME FOR COMMON SENSE TO PREVAIL



The main contract to build the road has not yet been awarded. There is still time to stop this madness. There are alternatives. They can relieve the congestion. They are much cheaper. They will not damage irreplaceable wildlife, countryside or historic sites.They could reduce pollution, not increase it.

We believe the Government should listen to reason, follow official advice and implement its own policies. We believe the Government should halt the road. We believe the alternatives should be tried first.

If you think like we do, please do something now. Please ask your MP to take up this urgent matter. Ask them to press for a suspension of work, and for a proper environmental impact assessment to be carried out whilst alternative transport solutions are implemented.

Please write also to Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, and urge him to invest in the effective alternatives. And save tens of millions of pounds of public money, and the nation's precious heritage. You can write to your MPs at the House of Commons, London SW1A OAA. If you are unsure who your MP is, then call the House of Commons on 0171 219 3000.

Providing information and materials (like this advert) to keep people informed of the facts behind the Newbury Bypass is very costly. Please send your donations in support of this campaign to:

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Judge backs Saudi dissident's plea to stay in Britain

By Michael Horsnell

AN ISLAMIC dissident ordered out of Britain in a move allegedly designed to protect arms sales to Saudi Arabia claimed victory yesterday when an immigration appeal rejected the arguments of the Home Secretary.

Muhammad al-Masari, who leads a fundamentalist campaign in London against the Saudi royal family, won an appeal hearing against deportation before the Immigration Appellate Authority. Judge Pearl, the chief adjudicator, ordered Michael Howard to reconsider his case for asylum.

The outcome could have a big impact on relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia as Britain seeks to protect the interests of companies with a stake in the £20 billion al-Yamamah arms deal and other substantial interests. Ministers have acknowledged that the decision to order the deportation of Dr Masari to the Caribbean island of Dominica was influenced by the need to maintain good relations with Saudi Arabia.

In his ruling, Judge Pearl said it appeared that an attempt had been made to circumvent the United Nations Convention on Refugees for "diplomatic and trade reasons". He ruled that the Home Secretary had failed to establish that Dominica was a safe third country. Mr Howard had not, therefore, been entitled to refuse Dr Masari's application for asylum without "substantive consideration". The judge recommended strongly that Mr Howard consider the asylum application "as expeditiously as possible and certainly within one month".

He said that the history of Dominica illustrated "a considerable degree of political vulnerability, such that pressure placed on it to remove the appellant and expel him to Saudi Arabia may not be capable of being resisted".

Dr Masari, 47, who fears his life will be in danger if he goes to Dominica, has compared his situation to "kicking a pheasant in the air so it can be shot". He said after the hearing yesterday: "I am thankful to God. I am very happy with the outcome. It's a great victory for myself. The reference back will put the Home Secretary under judicial, ethical and humanitarian pressure to allow me to stay in Britain. I will continue to campaign even if this embarrasses the British Government in its relations with Saudi Arabia. That is life."

Howard: was ordered to reconsider asylum case

Dr Masari had earlier told the hearing that he established the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia in May 1993. Twelve months later he lost his job as a professor of physics, was held in detention and was tortured for six months.

After arriving in Britain with a Yemeni passport, he has waged a relentless campaign against what he calls the "evil al-Saud tyranny". He told the hearing that he sent 850 faxes a week to Saudi Arabia and 700 to the United States and Canada.

Judge Pearl said: "It is common ground that in these activities the appellant has committed no act which can amount to a criminal offence under English law. It is also common ground that his activities are designed to embarrass the Government of Saudi Arabia."

ANDRE CAMARA

Muhammad al-Masari, with the Labour MP George Galloway, one of his backers, after the hearing yesterday

He referred to allegations made during the hearing that the Saudi Government had been implicated in the extra-territorial assassination and kidnapping of political opponents and that Dr Masari might be a target. He said: "I do find that there is some suggestion, which is in no way fanciful, that the Saudi Government has been involved in extra-territorial violence in the past. I do not put it any higher than that."

He questioned the value of assurances by the Saudis that it intended Dr Masari no harm, and said that the British Government's willingness to accept such assurances had to be viewed in the light of the Home Office trying to find a way of "disposing of the al-Masari problem".

Referring the case back to the Home Secretary for reconsideration was the only way to ensure "the highest standards of fairness", he said.

The Home Office said later: "The Home Secretary is considering whether there may be grounds for an appeal to the Immigration Appeals Tribunal." Sources said they believed that Mr Howard did not have to accept the authority's recommendation and that they were taking legal advice.

Deep-sea dump hailed as answer to waste mountain

By Nick Nuttall, technology correspondent

A DEEP-SEA dumping ground served by submarine "gliders" could be the answer to the world's growing waste mountains. Researchers believe the site, which is more than 6,000 metres deep, can lock away hazardous materials for ever and will prevent coasts becoming polluted.

Scientists who have carried out the research on behalf of the United States Congress have identified a 3,000 square metre site in the Atlantic as a potential dump for the world's rubbish. They have also suggested various techniques that could safely transfer the wastes from a cargo ship to the sea floor. One technique would involve a giant tower, 90 metres high, which would pump waste from the cargo ship directly to the disposal site.

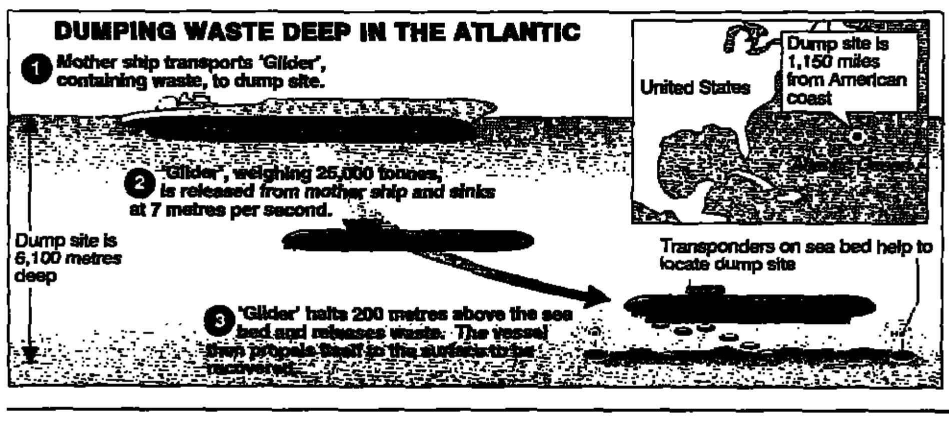
Another technique, outlined at the Oceanology International conference in Brighton, would involve an underwater vessel resembling a submarine. The "glider" would descend to 200 metres above the dumping site under the weight of its cargo before releasing hazardous wastes in specially designed, double-thickness plastic bags.

On impact, sensors able to detect chemicals leaking from the bag would ring the disposal area. The "glider" would then switch on its engines to return to the surface.

Dr Philip Valent, of the Marine Geosciences Division at the Naval Research Laboratory in Missouri, said yesterday that the glider strategy would help to protect fish and other marine life.

The project, funded through the United States Defence Department, comes at a time of growing concern over the disposal of hazardous wastes on land. Deep-sea disposal at the right depth and in the right place will lock away the pollution permanently.

Dr Tony Rice, of Southampton University's Oceanographic Centre and a scientist studying the potential for the oceans to take waste, said that an internationally run deep-sea disposal site, endorsed by the United Nations International Maritime Organisation, could have the political support to counter environmentalists' fears.


DUMPING WASTE DEEP IN THE ATLANTIC
1 Mother ship transports 'Glider', containing waste, to dump site.
2 'Glider', weighing 25,000 tonnes, is released from mother ship and sinks at 7 metres per second.
Dump site is 6,100 metres deep
3 'Glider' halts 200 metres above the sea bed and releases waste. The vessel then propels itself to the surface to be recovered.
United States
Dump site is 1,150 miles from American coast
Transponders on sea bed help to locate dump site

Protest on cigarettes deal fails

By Jeremy Laurance
Health correspondent

THE rules governing tobacco advertising are "a sham and a disgrace", medical organisations said yesterday after exposing a loophole that allowed a tobacco company to make unrealistic offers to smokers.

A 20-a-day smoker who wanted a CD player from the gifts offered by Benson and Hedges would take 7½ years to amass the points, but the promotion is scheduled to last only 18 months. The gifts include cots and toys.

Pamela Furness, director of Action on Smoking and Health (Ash) — which with the British Medical Association and the Health Visitors' Association complained to the Advertising Standards Authority and the Committee for Monitoring Agreements on Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship — said the promotion required points to be collected for an unreasonable time and breached the spirit of the voluntary code on tobacco advertising by associating smoking with the raising of a family.

However, the complaints were rejected because there are no powers to regulate the content of promotional material handed out to individuals or sent to their homes.

Modern medicine fails to prevent the return of TB

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AFTER antimicrobal drugs that could cure tuberculosis were introduced, the Western world had thought that the disease could be consigned to history. Tuberculosis is, however, increasing.

The magazine *Doctor* reported recently that in Edinburgh, where there is little immigration, there was an increase in the years 1988-92 of 4.1 per cent in the number of cases recorded among people over 65. During the same period there was a 12.6 per cent rise in the incidence of tuberculosis in younger patients.

The research workers, from the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, demonstrated that so far as the elderly were concerned, neither immigration nor HIV, the two factors usually blamed for the increase of tuberculosis and its increased resistance to antibiotics, were entirely to blame. Most of the cases in the elderly were the result of reactivation of tuberculosis caught in childhood or youth, often contracted before the Second World War and before the antibiotic era. The older the patients the more likely it was that the disease would again become a menace to their health, and to their family.

In Britain TB is still eminently treatable and we are not yet having to face widespread multiple drug resistance such as occurs in the United States. A few years ago a very senior banker came to see me before taking up another job. Although he was feeling perfectly fit his routine pre-employment medical revealed that he had caught tuberculosis, probably while travelling in some far away place.

I recommended that he should start treatment and take a few weeks off work before taking up his new appointment. To my surprise the chest physician to whom I had referred him said that time off work was in his case an unnecessary precaution; treatment had become so efficient that he could have started his job on time. In other places in the world resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs is growing and in some places the disease is reaching epidemic proportions. In those countries both the increased resistance, and the increased numbers, are almost entirely the result of the spread of HIV and the development of Aids.

Patients who have Aids lose their immunity to otherwise controllable diseases and TB is among those which become rife when medical services are inadequate and the necessary drugs are not available.

In Britain, areas with large immigrant populations are an important factor. The British Thoracic Society report that in those areas incidence is 25 per cent higher among newcomers than among the indigenous residents. Dr Peter Ormerod, of the British Thoracic Society, said: "There is no room for complacency about TB in Britain. Local TB services need to be strengthened and must include adequate staff. This country has relatively low rates of tuberculosis. If the current recommended code of medical practice is fully implemented it will help to minimise its spread, and keep the disease under control."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car chased by police involved in fatal crash

A woman died in a car crash involving two day-release prisoners being chased by police. Maureen Gillespie, 53, of Yalding, Kent, was killed instantly in the head-on crash near Tonbridge with the inmates who were returning to Blantyre House jail on Monday night. Jade, her two-year-old granddaughter, was taken to hospital with fractures.

The prisoners, both in a serious condition in Maidstone General Hospital, were on their way back from work near Sidcup when they were seen speeding by police on the M20, and pursued. The Police Complaints Authority is to supervise an inquiry.

18 horses killed in arson attack

Eighteen horses died and four were injured in what is thought to have been an arson attack on livery stables at Criol Farm, near Shadoxhurst, Kent. At least 12 horses were saved. Tony Fraser, brother of Brian Fraser, owner of the farm, said a car had been driven into a barn and set alight. "It is an horrific and disgusting thing to do." Detective Inspector Gerald Smith said: "You can imagine the grief and misery caused."

Bypass arrests

Police arrested 21 demonstrators on two sites of the proposed Newbury bypass. They also criticised the protesters' tactics after finding a ball containing 2ft 6in sharpened spears on another site.

Order to leave

Squatters who set up an "estate agency" of vacant premises have been ordered out after eviction proceedings were brought at Brighton County Court by Brighton council, which owns the shop.

House rejected

A mother of 11 children has rejected a ten-bedroom house built for her in Swansea. Gaynor Draper said she had suffered abuse from neighbours over the housing association offer.

Wormed away

Birds' diet may be suffering because drugs developed to combat parasites in livestock are causing a decline in the amount of insects and worms in droppings, according to the British Trust for Ornithology.

Long-life family

Florrie Burgess, of Catford, southeast London, is due today to become the fourth family member to receive a 100th birthday message from the Queen. Her brother and parents all lived to 100.

Rickshaw recruit

An Oxford University classics student has become Britain's first licensed rickshaw driver. Polly Low, 22, will be one of a team of 25 pedalling tourists around the city when the service starts at Easter.

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Blair presents Labour as the homeowner's saviour

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR outlined plans yesterday to rescue people from negative equity and to expose mortgage lenders that charge the highest commission fees.

He presented Labour as champion of the homeowner saying that the Tories were now the party of "repossessions, broken dreams and falling house values".

The Labour leader told a conference in London: "Many of the people who have tried to fulfil their dream have been let down. Homeowners kept their side of the contract. The Tories just tore it up."

He condemned bad housing advice, saying that some people had been sold unsuitable mortgages, often unaware that salespeople had earned extra commission for pushing a particular type of loan. "That situation has to change," he said.

"Lenders have nothing to fear from letting their customers know exactly what the costs are for the services they provide. They should publish full information on charges and commissions so that consumers know where they stand." Labour officials said that this could lead to league tables of mortgage-lenders, showing which levied the highest charges.

Mr Blair said that there was also a strong case for bringing mortgages under the Financial Services Act to ensure that customers were guaranteed adequate advice. He also said that people should be able to borrow a loan covering the full cost of their house, plus the negative equity from their previous home. But he made clear that borrowers would have to reassure lenders that they had a good repayment record, that they were in stable employment and could meet the new repayments.

"It is not a scheme suitable for everyone, but it could be a further mechanism which would help get the market moving again."

Mr Blair called for more flexible mortgage schemes, saying that he welcomed lifestyle mortgages that allowed "payment holidays" to cover the birth of a child. He also favoured avoiding repossessions by the increased use of "flexible tenure" schemes, where building societies lent funds to a housing association so that it could buy a property and allow the occupiers to stay as tenants.

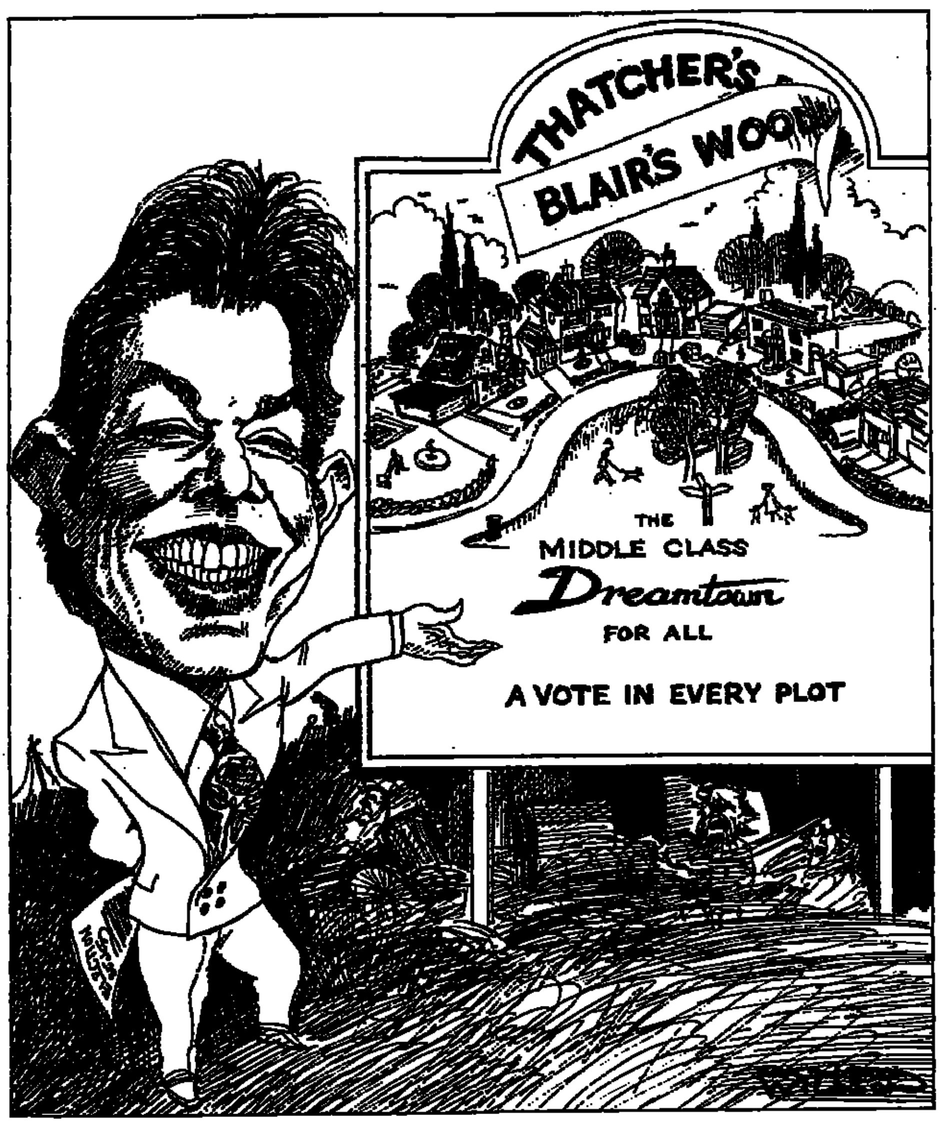
He made clear, however, that he was not turning his back on council housing. "I want to set out a picture of housing in which Labour supports the aspiration of the majority of people to own their own homes and to have a healthy, properly run social and private rented sector for those who either cannot afford to buy or who choose not to."

Mr Blair said that the Tories were now the "home-wreckers' party", who had pushed 1.7 million homeowners into negative equity, while cutting mortgage tax relief and benefits for unemployed homeowners. It was the party of "negative equity, repossessions, broken dreams and falling house values".

Later in the Commons, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that negative equity had dropped by 26 per cent since 1992. He mocked Labour's plans to help those in difficulty by allowing mortgages of more than 100 per cent of purchase price. He claimed that leading building societies were already running such schemes.

"The Abbey National, the Cheltenham and Gloucester, the Alliance and Leicester, the Halifax — they have all got the schemes in existence that the leader of the Labour Party says his Government would introduce if he ever got elected," Mr Heseltine said. "They are already there, doing it. The market has spoken. Tory government works."

Mortgage lenders and housebuilders gave only a cautious welcome to Mr Blair's proposals. Roger Humber, director of the Housebuilder Federation, said: "Mr Blair's speech seemed to address the symptoms and not the causes of the housing market's problems. What owner-occupiers need, irrespective of the party in power, is interest rate stability and the return of job security. We don't need rabbit-out-of-the-hat tricks from anyone."



Fraud teams to focus on urban claimants

By James Landale

HUNDREDS of fraud investigators are preparing to sweep the country in a crackdown on benefit cheats, the Government announced yesterday.

The investigators will concentrate on three or four urban areas each month in an effort to cut the £2.5 billion lost to social security fraud every year. Much of the fraud involves housing benefit, income support, and unemployment benefit. Free telephone hotlines will be set up for the public to inform officials about suspected fraud.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, told the Commons: "The prime objective will be to encourage those who have drifted into abusing the system to put their claims right, then to crack down hard on those who fail to take the opportunity of coming clean."

Although Mr Lilley did not say which areas would be visited by the investigators, claimants will be given two weeks' warning. "Those who do come forward voluntarily would be very unlikely to be prosecuted," he said.

Tories in turmoil over Goldsmith's referendum ploy

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

THE billionaire Anglo-French financier Sir James Goldsmith has plunged the Tory party into turmoil with his demand that MPs and candidates say where they stand on a referendum on Europe.

Sir James has formed the Referendum Party, backed with a campaign budget of at least £10 million, and is threatening to contest every mainland seat where no other main party candidate is committed to a referendum. He has more than 400 potential candidates waiting in the wings.

Tory MPs in the 90 most *marginal* seats, those with majorities up to 7,000, are deeply alarmed by his move. They fear that a referendum candidate, backed by national publicity, could cost them a 1,000 votes or more and make their seat more vulnerable to a Labour swing. Senior Tories have approached John Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, urging them to clarify the Government's stance on a referendum, at present no more than a "possibility".

Robert Key, a Tory MP with an 8,973 majority in Salisbury, summed up the predicament of many backbenchers. "A number of MPs and their associations are anxiously awaiting guidance. If it is not forthcoming soon, I feel that I will have to go my own way. I have already publicly said I would be in favour of a referendum on a single currency, and I need to know whether the Government intends to go further than that."

An ad hoc group of senior ministers is trying to establish a clearer line in time for the debate on the Europe White Paper later this month.

Goldsmith: feared in Tory marginals

Labour MPs are far more relaxed, knowing that fewer of their potential supporters are likely to be swayed by the referendum promise. "Goldsmith doesn't strike the cold fear in our hearts that he does in the Tories," a Shadow Cabinet member said.

Sir James wrote to 1,062 MPs and candidates from all the main parties a few weeks ago, asking where they stood on a referendum. But Tory MPs are not looking forward to giving an answer. With the Government sitting on the fence, many want firm guidance before committing themselves in print.

Conservative Central Office has intervened, telling MPs to hold fire pending a Cabinet review of policy. But ministers have yet to agree a response as Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, holds out against a referendum.

Sir James's letter was accompanied by a two-page statement of his party's aims. He wants a referendum not just on a single currency or the outcome of this year's intergovernmental conference, but on the Maastricht treaty itself — a demand regarded as impractical even by some hard-line sceptics.

He is coy about the responses he has received to his letter. But close associates say there have been many and the "overwhelming majority" support his demand for a referendum on the whole Maastricht package.

At least one Tory need have no fears about a Goldsmith challenge. Sir Teddy Taylor, MP for Southend East, said: "Sir James, through his tenacity and hard work, is slowly driving the party towards the only possible solution to our European worries and divisions — namely, letting the people decide for themselves.

"It's simply no good to talk about a referendum on a single currency. We need a referendum on whether the people of Britain wish to remain in the European Union. My own feeling is that they are fed up to the teeth with the EU."

Openness 'must wait'

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

THE passing of a freedom of information Act, one of Labour's few commitments to legislation, may have to wait if the party wins the general election.

Peter Mandelson, Labour's Civil Service spokesman, said yesterday that the commitment could only be met "in time". He told a seminar organised by the Campaign for Freedom of Information that as a first step the Government's code on openess should be "bolstered and more liberally interpreted". Without mentioning a freedom of information Act, he added: "In time that should be underpinned by legislation."

He sought to reassure concerned civil servants by saying that there would be a wide range of exemptions from legislation, including matters of security and commercial confidentiality and Civil Service advice to ministers.

Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, admitted that "the instinctive Whitehall reaction" was towards secrecy but said a freedom of information Act would only reinforce the tendency. Civil servants would "retire into their shells" and commit less information to paper.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister, with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for Mr Major; debates on benefit fraud and the ture of Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell. In e Lords, Broadcasting Bill, report stage; serve Forces Bill, third reading.

DAY in the Commons: backbench ates; Foreign Office questions; Comnity Care (Direct Payments) Bill, ond reading; Education (School mises) Regulations; backbench de on women in prison. In the Lords: tes on university spending cuts; calls greater awareness of developing es' needs; Sexual Orientation nination Bill, second reading.

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TECHNOLOGY GONE SANE

Buchanan threat to divide party on abortion issue

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN has built a following so passionate that he could wreak havoc at this August's Republican convention in San Diego if his demands are ignored.

The populist insurgent has rallied religious conservatives with his uncompromising stand against abortion in any circumstances, and is threatening mayhem if the Republican presidential nominee chooses a pro-choice running mate like Colin Powell, or adopts anything short of a rigidly anti-abortion platform.

"There would be a walk-out at the convention. You would split the party. You would probably have embryonic right-to-life parties all over America," Mr Buchanan said.

The party's problem is that capitulating to Mr Buchanan's demands would alienate a centre that is the key to winning the White House and abhors Mr Buchanan's moral absolutism. A recent Gallup poll showed just 12 per cent of voters share his unconditional opposition to abortion.

In 1992 Mr Buchanan drove millions of moderates into the Democratic camp with a convention speech demanding a "cultural war for the soul of America" and many Republicans still blame him for President Bush's defeat. This year, by winning more than a quarter of the vote in every contest, he has not only earned another prime-time speech in San Diego but will command a much larger number of committed delegates.

It is a prospect that appals the pragmatic Robert Dole, who would love to have General Powell on his ticket, has tied himself in knots on the abortion issue, and fervently wishes it would go away.

During a debate in South Carolina last Thursday, Mr Dole first told a questioner he would oppose an abortion were she made pregnant by a rapist, then contradicted himself. On a chat show last Saturday he had to admit he would support his daughter if she chose to have an abortion. On Sunday he agreed abortion was murder but claimed "political realities" demanded exceptions in cases of rape, incest or where a mother's life was endangered. Later, collared by reporters, he snapped that "some people think abortion is the only thing a President should be concerned about".

Mr Buchanan's refusal to compromise on abortion and other moral issues has split not only the party, but also the Christian Coalition in a year when it has really come of age. It has been turning out evangelical voters in record numbers in the Republican primaries. The candidates all now attend its rallies and vie to appear the most committed to its agenda. When Steve Forbes attacked the coalition in Iowa he came a disastrous fourth.

Pat Buchanan gets down to grassroots campaigning among young supporters at a rally in Roswell, Georgia

In almost every state the coalition's leaders have taken a pragmatic position and backed Mr Dole as the man most likely to win the nomination. Mr Buchanan has countered by touring the churches of the American hinterland and whipping up grassroots purists.

Mr Buchanan has won a majority of the Religious Right vote in almost every contest. However, the "Buchanan brigades" would do well to remember the last time cultural conservatives won a constitutional amendment lacking broad popular support. Prohibition was introduced in 1920, repealed 13 disastrous years laters, and the Religious Right has only just recovered its political influence.

☐ **States vote:** Two hundred and fifty-nine delegates were being decided yesterday. Eight states were holding primaries, most of them in the northeast: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maryland, Georgia and Colorado. Two states were holding caucuses, Washington and Minnesota. *(AP)*

Silicon Valley crime ring broken

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

COMPUTER chips worth more on the black market than gold or cocaine were at the heart of a crime ring brought to its knees by undercover agents working in one of the world's most lucrative robbery districts, Silicon Valley.

After an 18-month operation codenamed West Chips, the FBI has arrested 50 suspects, most of them Vietnamese immigrants. As profits and asset values have soared among computer firms in the southern San Francisco Bay area known as Silicon Valley, organised gangs have used increasingly ruthless methods to steal chips worth millions on the international market.

One undercover agent who risked his life infiltrating a Vietnamese-American gang secretly recorded one of its members planning a robbery: "We'll take this guy over here," the gangster said, "and the first thing we'll do is cut his ear off in front of everybody. If that doesn't work, we'll cut off his other ear. And if that doesn't work, we'll shoot him."

Companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Silicon Graphics are among those targeted by the gangs, which have earned up to $500 million (£330 million) in two years. But agents planning operation West Chips have been hampered by the reluctance of some firms to report robberies for fear of upsetting their insurers and shareholders, the San José police department said.

The authorities were also forced to proceed slowly because of the gangs' suspicion of outsiders and their skill at covering their tracks. Robberies were often carried put with the help of corrupt insiders, according to Mark Mershon, an FBI official. Stolen chips would be loaded into stolen vans, then transferred to hired luxury cars less likely to attract police attention.

One suspect, Thach Ngoc Tran, 28, paid $2.4 million into his bank account last year. He is now in custody.

Aged Southern senator not yet over the Hill

FROM TOM RHODES *IN WASHINGTON*

Thurmond: has vowed to run for an eighth term

BORN 37 years after the end of the Civil War and elected Governor of South Carolina when President Clinton was born, Strom Thurmond has straddled the 20th-century history of his state like an eccentric and cantankerous colossus.

This week, at 93, he becomes the oldest member yet to serve in Congress. And he has vowed to run for an eighth term during which he would not merely assume the mantle of the longest serving senator in American history but also that of centenarian.

In addition to his chairmanship of the armed services committee, he is president *pro tempore* of the Senate, placing him third in the presidential succession after Al Gore, the Vice-President, and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker.

As Robert Dole, the 72-year-old senator from Kansas, defended his own age to the South Carolina electorate last week, Mr Thurmond used the backdrop of the state Republican primary to hint that he was ready to stand again. He told a crowd of supporters that he was not yet in a position to announce his candidature.

"But you won't be disappointed," said Mr Thurmond. "There's a few liberals running around saying I shouldn't run again. What counts is not age but performance, getting the job done. What do you think?"

The rapturous applause that greeted his speech suggested that, for the gathered loyalists at least, Strom Thurmond has every chance of success. For years, they have heard stories about his health habits, his orange hair implants and, most famously, his penchant for taking young beauty queens as wives. The four Thurmond children were born when he was between the ages of 69 and 74.

It is all part of the idiosyncratic Thurmond legend, the man who has been both a Democrat and a Republican, a fierce segregationist who became the first Southern senator to employ black staff and now a conservative with a record of support for civil rights.

His most striking attributes were evident from the start. He has always been an indefatigable campaigner, never missing the opportunity to shake hands, learning and remembering every name and spending spare moments writing messages of condolence and congratulation to constituents.

There has been political courage, too. Having initially praised the records of Roosevelt and Truman, Mr Thurmond then ran against Truman in 1948 as the presidential candidate of the segregationist States' Rights Party, the Dixiecrats. It was an act of disloyalty which placed him forever in the Democratic doghouse.

Americans uncover Russian diamond plot

BY GILES WHITTELL

AN INTERNATIONAL diamond scam in which a Russian conman appears to have robbed his Government of $171 million (£110 million) has been shut down by authorities in San Francisco.

The story of Andrei Kozlenok and the diamond factory he set up in California is still mired in conspiracy theories and dark rumours of KGB involvement. What is certain is that Russia is suing in a San Francisco federal court for the return of a haul of gold and diamonds embezzled there by Mr Kozlenok.

In a racket worthy of a James Bond villain, Mr Kozlenok, a dapper "entrepreneur" in his 30s, used $1.3 million in Russian Government funds to set up a diamond-cutting plant in San Francisco in 1992.

His plan, reported to have been approved by Moscow, was to cut and polish rough Russian diamonds and use them as collateral for a $500 million credit line from an American bank for the Russian Government. Instead Mr Kozlenok and two Armenian accomplices sold the diamonds and went on a $30 million spending spree.

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Independent voice silenced before election

Editor's sacking muzzles Zimbabwe newspaper

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

DEMOCRACY and press freedom in Zimbabwe have suffered a serious setback with the sacking of the editor of the country's only independent newspaper by its nervous proprietor.

Trevor Ncube last week ended five years as editor of the *Financial Gazette*, during which time the Government was repeatedly humiliated by the exposure of top-level corruption and incompetence. Such stories were ignored by other Zimbabwean newspapers, nearly all of which are state-owned.

Mr Ncube's departure, and the subsequent muzzling of the *Gazette* by Elias Rusike, the chief executive of Modus Publications which owns the paper, mean that the campaign for presidential elections in two weeks' time is being reported here solely by newspapers which support the ruling Zanu (PF) party. Observers say that the rampant abuse of office by senior politicians can be expected to increase without the risk of exposure by the *Gazette*.

Modus Publications is facing bankruptcy and Modus House, in a rundown part of Harare, is for sale.

Mr Ncube, 34, was suspended a month ago for publishing a Reuters report that said President Mugabe's aircraft had tried to queue-jump other planes carrying heads of state to Lesotho in January.

"Instead of defending his editor, Mr Rusike silenced him," said Iden Wetherell, formerly the newspaper's leading columnist. He resigned last week after his popular satirical column, Muckraker, was dropped.

After Mr Ncube left, Mr Rusike personally began scrutinising stories. He issued a memorandum that the paper was to establish "a Zimbabwean identity", which *Gazette* journalists believe means following the Zanu (PF) line. They have been told to focus on business affairs, to treat security stories "cautiously" and to pay more attention to the speeches of ministers. For the first time in its history, the *Gazette* carried advertising which congratulated Mr Mugabe on his seventy-second birthday last month.

Mr Rusike bought Modus in 1989 with a loan secured by a recommendation from the party Politburo, on the understanding that it would toe the party line. "But he completely lost control of his editors," a former senior staff member said.

Gazette reporters say the final straw for Mr Rusike came last May when he and Mr Ncube were arrested and spent the weekend in jail after the paper reported that the recently-widowed Mr Mugabe had secretly remarried.

The report proved to be false, and the two men were fined heavily for criminal defamation while the state-controlled press referred to the *Gazette's* columnists as "modern-day Selous Scouts" (after the notorious former Rhodesian Army unit) and *agents provocateurs*.

"The affair completely traumatised Mr Rusike, and he couldn't take any more," a senior staff member said.

Modus now owes nearly £2.56 million to the state-owned bank which backed Mr Rusike and is calling in substantial repayments. The Cabinet has discussed the debt several times, according to financial sources.

Mr Ncube said he had no evidence of the Government bringing direct influence to bear on Mr Rusike, but added it was "difficult to find another reason" for the censorship.

The Gazette's advertising and circulation are expected to plummet and the paper's future is regarded as uncertain, even if the Government decides to prop it up with easy repayment terms.

Mr Mandela prepares to talk to reporters yesterday as speculation grows about his health

Mandela vows to complete his term

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday dismissed speculation that he may leave office before the completion of his five-year term in 1999.

He was responding to a report from Washington, published in South Africa's *Business Day* newspaper, which claimed there were growing indications that he might retire as early as this year.

"No, I am hearing that for the first time," Mr Mandela told reporters at a private clinic here where he is undergoing three days of medical tests. "There is no question of me continuing beyond 1999, but I have not been told that I should step down, so I will hold on until 1999."

Mr Mandela decided to undergo tests after speculation about his health sent shudders through the money markets. The check-up has forced him to postpone a visit to Angola, where he was to meet President dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader.

Patten pleads for council

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Hong Kong Governor, yesterday followed up John Major's speech warning Peking not to breach its legal obligations by urging China to reverse its decision to abolish the colony's Legislative Council and truncate its Bill of Rights when it resumes sovereignty in 1997.

Responding to suggestions in the Communist-controlled local press that Mr Major's statement would damage British-Chinese relations, the Governor urged Peking "to stand by the promises made to Hong Kong on human rights ... and on the development of representative institutions".

In reply to Chinese statements that Hong Kong's first fully elected legislature would be terminated two years short of its term, Mr Patten acknowledged that a reversal by Peking "would take some effort of will", but said it would create "overwhelming relief" in Hong Kong.

The Governor described Mr Major's speech guaranteeing visa-free access to Britain after 1997 for Hong Kong passport holders, offering passports to war wives and widows, and guaranteeing the safety of non-ethnic Chinese, as one of the most forceful "ever made by any British politician".

Arms tests unnerve Taiwan

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA'S new round of missile tests starting on Friday in the Taiwan Straits in advance of Taiwan's presidential elections on March 23 are part of a war of nerves intended to show how easily the mainland could blockade the island's main ports, diplomats said here yesterday.

China's announcement of the one-week exercises came only hours before the annual parliamentary session was convened yesterday, and provoked regional concern that, through accident or overreaction, the war games could go seriously wrong.

Stock market prices fell 62 points in Taipei and many ordinary Taiwanese reacted with concern. A number of fearful civilians living on the tiny Taiwan-controlled island of Wu Chiu, just a mile off the China coast, fled to Taiwan.

In Peking, the Foreign Ministry said the tests were "just normal exercises for safeguarding the country's sovereignty and integrity".

But Taiwan says China has massed up to 150,000 troops in preparation for the exercises and claims they are an attempt to destabilise the country before the poll in which President Lee is the front-runner.

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Arafat undermined by ferocity of response to Arab guerrilla attacks as ceasefire offer is rejected

Israel puts West Bank under military siege

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI troops and secret service agents went on the offensive against Islamic militants yesterday, barricading Palestinian residents inside hundreds of West Bank villages and towns, sealing at least ten family homes with welding equipment and placing many Hamas suspects in internment-style administrative detention.

The entire area was placed under military siege. The protests of Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, were ignored by a Government plunged into crisis after 57 deaths from suicide bombs in the past ten days.

Top Israeli security sources said that even tougher action could be expected in the coming days and Ehud Barak, the hardline Foreign Minister and former Chief of Staff, made it clear that Israel was even prepared to strike inside Arab countries which gave sanctuary to Hamas.

The crackdown continued despite a new conditional ceasefire offer by the military wing of Hamas which, in response to a call from its political leaders, pledged to halt bombings until July if action against its members ceased. Israel rejected the offer. Leaflets suggesting a truce by the divided organisation have recently been followed by massive suicide bombs.

Inside the ruling Labour coalition there was pressure for Mr Barak, who once went into Beirut disguised as a woman to assassinate PLO leaders, to replace Shimon Peres as Defence Minister. Pressure was also growing for a government of national unity including members of the right-wing Likud opposition to conduct the new war against Islamic militants.

"The Israeli Army announced through loudspeakers that we are not to leave our villages," said one resident of the West Bank village of Rummaneh near Jenin, one of six Palestinian towns recently evacuated by Israeli troops. "It looks as if the Israeli Army has re-occupied the West Bank again," the angry villager added. In another village, Burka, near the largest West Bank town of Nablus, 600 male residents between the ages of 14 and 50 were forced to squat for hours in the sunshine as mass interrogations took place. Elsewhere, relatives of suicide bombers were arrested to face possible deportation.

Israel television, in an attempt to boost morale among the Jewish population, was allowed to film as homes of the dead bombers were welded shut while heaps of personal belongings were tossed into piles outside. At least eight homes will be destroyed today.

Strict curfews were imposed on at least five villages and one refugee camp. House-to-house searches began at dawn, with suspected supporters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad driven away blindfolded. The West Bank was effectively cut off from Arab east Jerusalem.

Although for the moment the heavily-armed troops remained just outside those West Bank towns that are under Palestinian authority, Mr Arafat's standing was severely undermined by the ferocity of the Israeli clampdown, which left hundreds of thousands of Palestinians short of bread, petrol and other essentials. "This goes directly against the [peace] agreement," the elected Palestinian President said in Gaza.

Mr Peres, the embattled Prime Minister who also holds the defence portfolio, belatedly bowing to popular pressure to harden his attitude to the Arabs, made clear that the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron scheduled for later this month would be postponed until the PLO deletes clauses in its covenant which calls for the destruction of Israel. Few observers considered his new hard line sufficient to save him from losing the May 29 general election to right-wing Likud leader, Binyamin Netanyahu.

The funerals of the 13 victims of Monday's attack in Tel Aviv continued yesterday. Many of those killed in the explosion were children.

Clinton responds quickly

Washington: In a swift response to the terrorist bombing campaign in Israel, President Clinton yesterday sent bomb-detection equipment and technical experts to the Middle East to assist in putting the fragile peace process back on track (Tom Rhodes writes).

Bomber was trainee teacher

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Shaghnouba: "Known for devotion to Islam"

LONG before Raed Shaghnouba blew himself up on the Jerusalem bus on Sunday, he was known at the Ramallah Men's Training Centre for his devotion to Islam.

Shaghnouba, 24, could often be heard on the teacher-training campus, singing the Muslim call to prayers and leading other students in verses from the Koran.

Another student at the college, Samair Bakrie, 18, said: "I did not know him personally but I knew his face. He was well-known for his good behaviour and intelligence."

Worried that there were more students planning to become human bombs, the Palestinian Authority this week raided the institution and arrested at least 21 people. They included Mustafa Abu Wardah, who Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, told diplomats was responsible for recruiting bombers for at least two of the recent attacks.

Mr Bakrie said most of his fellow students came from refugee camps, traditional breeding grounds of Palestinian terrorism. "I think the main reason for the people to commit such an act is the frustration they live in. The refugee camps lack any infrastructure, and the economic situation is very bad, and all these frustrations lead to explosions," he said.

He believed there would be further suicide bombings if Israel continued to punish Palestinians collectively.

The college was quiet yesterday after the raid by the Palestinian Authority. Journalists were denied entry, but some off-campus students complained they were being victimised and denied that the institution had become a base for terrorism.

However, even Mr Bakrie, a quietly-spoken and modest young man who does not support the killing of civilians, was not willing to blame fellow Palestinians for the violence. He said Israel was ultimately responsible for creating the conditions for suicide bombings by oppressing Palestinians.

He said he understood, even if he did not support, the actions of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, which has claimed responsibility.

Israelis guard a man arrested in Hebron after two Jewish settlers were stabbed

Hawks drown out doves as cry goes up for a 'Berlin Wall'

BY OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

LED BY Amos Oz, the novelist and, in the past, the most articulate exponent of the peace policy, Israel yesterday embarked on an unprecedented round of soul-searching after the five Islamic terror attacks that have rocked the Jewish State in eight days.

The general feeling that the era of the dove has again been replaced by that of the hawk was summed up in a cartoon in *Haaretz*, the leading Tel Aviv daily paper. It depicted a dove lying in a hospital bed, its head and limbs bandaged. "Last week's attacks," is written in its arm. Scissors labelled "This week's attacks" are cutting the intravenous blood supply.

Mr Oz, writing in the mass circulation Hebrew paper *Maariv* amid horrific colour photographs of the latest devastation in the centre of Tel Aviv, addressed an open letter to a Palestinian acquaintance which began: "Shalom, Israel is our homeland. Palestine is your homeland. Whoever cannot live with these two simple facts is either blind or evil."

Mr Oz added: "There are those among us who are considering ideas such as the imposition of one-sided borders, the erection of a fortress wall between the two peoples and the complete severance of the two populations."

Another leading pro-peace commentator, Nahum Barnea, who lost his 20-year-old son, Yona, in the first of the two attacks on Jerusalem's No 18 bus, went even further in suggesting in the biggest selling Hebrew daily, *Yediot Ahronot*, that Shimon Peres, the embattled Prime Minister, could have saved his flagging reputation by pressing a comprehensive plan to separate Arab from Jew.

"This would, perhaps, involve the establishment of a Berlin Wall within the Old City of Jerusalem and the evacuation of settlements."

Yoel Markus, a popular political commentator, wrote in *Haaretz*: "Hamas is showing us a 'New Middle East' that is completely different from what this Government depicted."

Another top commentator, Yosef Lapid, told readers of *Maariv* that his mind was made up and that the harshest reaction against the Palestinians was necessary, action that would make Israel's ruthless moves against the Palestinian intifada look like "child's play".

War and welfare on Hamas agenda

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

SINCE Hamas was founded in the occupied Gaza Strip in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, now ailing in an Israeli jail, the organisation has expanded into a well financed welfare, as well as guerrilla, group. Its wings are notionally split in a way similar to Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA.

According to a senior Israeli army officer who has studied the group for the past four years, Hamas can count on about $60 million (£40 million) a year in private donations. About 85 per cent of it is used to run schools, medical centres, hospitals, youth clubs and mosques.

"Without the support and activity of the civilian wing, the military wing could not exist," the officer said, producing diagrams to outline Hamas financing. He said that only 15 per cent of the income went to the military wing because the winning of the "hearts and minds" of the Palestinian people was regarded as the prime aim.

Britain has rejected Israeli allegations that $10 million is channelled to Hamas annually from London, either in the form of donations to Islamic charities or in money laundered through London from other parts of the world. Britain has also rejected appeals to outlaw Hamas supporters in Britain.

Although much of Hamas's ideological inspiration comes from Iran, half of its annual budget is estimated by the Israelis to emanate from the Gulf, notably Saudi Arabia. In the West, Britain and America are the main routes for funds which the Israeli military authorities claim they are unable to block because, ostensibly, they are intended for legal Islamic charities.

The deep divisions inside Hamas are attributed mainly to a clash between its leadership abroad, which tends to be more hardline, and leadership within Gaza and the West Bank, which is keener to make a political accommodation with Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The senior Israeli officer told reporters at a briefing on Hamas that the grouping specialised in promoting moderation at the political level, while carrying out grotesque and indiscriminate terror attacks via its military wing, formed in 1990. "The parallels with the IRA are obvious, with one notable exception: the Provisionals do not favour suicide attacks and, most of the time, they give coded — if imperfect — warnings," one diplomat said.

Task-force chief was decorated for actions

AMI AYALON, the spymaster appointed to head the new anti-terrorist task force charged with ridding Israel of the suicide-bomb threat, is no stranger to mounting operations against Arab enemies (Christopher Walker writes).

Until he was chosen to rescue the reputation of Shin Bet, Israel's equivalent of MI5, after it was destroyed by the assassination last November of Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish right-wing fanatic, Reserve Admiral Ayalon, 51, was Commander of the Israeli Navy.

During his naval career he earned the reputation as a modest professional not given to the normal power struggles and political ambitions that affect senior figures in the Israeli defence establishment. Although details of most of his operations are still secret, in 1969 he commanded a unit in charge of gathering information on an island under Egyptian control. His lack of Arabic almost undermined the operation when he wished a local Arab good morning instead of good night.

Several weeks later he won the Medal of Valour when commander of the landing on the strategic island. One soldier said: "He was a fighter. Despite his small size, he carried two wounded men to the evacuation point."

In 1974, he was in charge of a unit of naval commandos which attacked a Palestinian base deep inside Lebanon. In 1992, he returned from a course of studies in America to command the landing of forces in Beirut during the siege of the city.

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New biography brands Tintin's creator as passive collaborator

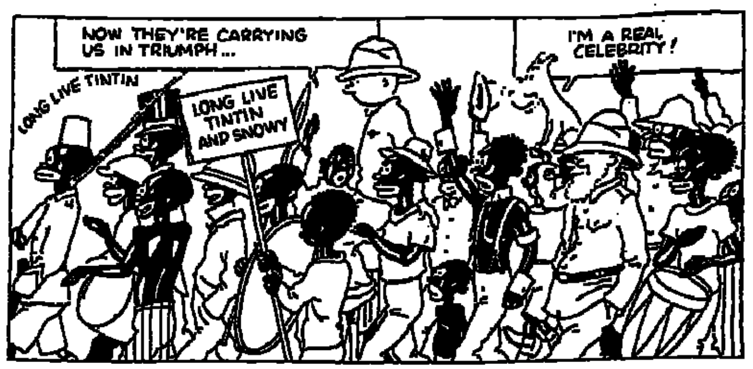
Hergé: backed Nazis out of political innocence

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

HERGE, the Belgian cartoonist and creator of Tintin, was a "passive collaborator" who morally and financially supported friends sympathetic to the Nazis, according to a new biography.

In *Hergé*, Pierre Assouline, a French historian and the first biographer to gain full access to the archives of the Hergé Foundation in Brussels, explores the links between the celebrated illustrator and the extreme Right during the 1930s and the Occupation. He concludes that Hergé backed the Nazis, but out of political innocence rather than political conviction.

Like P. G. Wodehouse, Hergé's activities before and during the Second World War have long been the subject of controversy, but M Assouline's 463-page book, published this week in France, is the most balanced and fully documented account yet. Before the war, Hergé, whose real name was Georges Rémi, worked for *Vingtième Siècle*, the Roman Catholic Belgian newspaper, as an illustrator. There he came under the influence of the editor, Abbé Norbert Wallez, an anti-communist, anti-Semite and ultra-nationalist.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LONG LIVE TINTIN
LONG LIVE TINTIN AND SNOWY

An early colonialist cartoon that later caused Hergé great shame

The first two Tintin stories about the courageous boy reporter with the quiff and plus-fours, published in 1929 and 1930, *The Adventures of Tintin, Reporter in the Land of the Soviets* and *The Adventures of Tintin in the Congo*, reflected the abbot's anti-communist leanings and support for Belgian colonialism. Later, Hergé was deeply ashamed of the racist images in *Tintin in the Congo* and sought to right the balance in *The Red Sea Sharks*, which shows Tintin battling against the slave trade.

The most serious charge against Hergé is that during the German occupation of Belgium he continued to draw the Tintin strip for the Nazi-controlled newspaper, *Soir*. After the war, Hergé even depicted Tintin in German uniform, while an anti-Nazi newspaper, *La Patrie*, published its own cartoon mocking Hergé's cub reporter.

"Hergé may be considered a passive collaborator," M Assouline concludes, saying that the illustrator was a political innocent rather than an active supporter of fascism. "By lending his signature, he backed the regime. But he was never a militant ... he never wrote about politics, nor denounced anyone."

Hergé, however, did give money and moral support to his friends who were considered Belgian collaborators, M Assouline discloses, actions that suggest naivety at best and, at worst, a continuing allegiance to the views of the Abbé Wallez. When Belgium was liberated, the cartoonist was accused of collaboration but later was awarded the required "certificate of good citizenship". His past haunted him, however, and M Assouline found he became depressed after the war and briefly considered emigrating to Argentina.

Hergé died in 1983 at 76, but the cult following of Tintin continues to grow with every generation. The Tintin books have sold 140 million copies in 40 languages.

Rifkind dismisses EU formula for foreign policy 'fix'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday dismissed as unworkable plans to force British taxpayers to subsidise French or German actions overseas that Britain strongly opposed.

He said the proposal for "constructive abstention" from a common foreign policy decided by majority vote would lead to political absurdity. Under the plans, the country concerned should pay for and support decisions in which it was not involved. But this would not resolve real disagreements, Mr Rifkind said.

"It makes no sense to expect a country which actually disagrees with a policy to support it — whether politically or financially — through something called 'constructive abstention'," he told an audience in Paris. "Would France have been willing to abstain 'constructively' over nuclear testing?"

Under the way common foreign and security policy now worked, European Union countries agreed where they could, he said. They did not make life difficult for their partners out of whimsy or malice. It the dispute was of little importance, there were already ways to resolve it; but where there was a real difference over issues that mattered, "clever institutional fixes are not the solution".

Mr Rifkind's speech to the Institut Français des Relations Internationaux, the leading foreign policy think-tank in Paris, laid out his strong opposition to the pressure from Paris and Bonn for majority voting in common foreign policy. This will be one of the most contentious issues at the EU inter-governmental conference which opens in Turin next month.

Common foreign and security policy had worked reasonably well in the four years since it was set up by Maastricht, Mr Rifkind said, adding that "those who sleep with the Treaty of Rome under their pillows" might denounce the arrangements, "but substance matters more to me than form".

The way such policy worked, however, could be improved. Mr Rifkind called for:

☐ Better planning. The EU was too reactive. It should set up a small team of people working with the Council secretariat to give ministers the kind of service which Britain and France took for granted in their ministries.

☐ A clearer voice. Mr Rifkind supported a French proposal for a single figure to represent EU policy to the outside world. — "somebody appointed and tasked by the Council; its servant, not its chairman".

☐ More flexibility. Member countries should exploit their historic and geographic links with former colonies.

☐ Better co-ordination between the political and economic sides of the EU.

☐ Better financing arrangements. Money must be available to deal with fast-moving and unpredictable situations.

☐ Faster reflexes. He said crises did not happens to suit EU officials' programmes.

Mr Rifkind said it did not matter to most people whether the British or French troops in Bosnia were flying the European flag. "What will matter to them is that European countries are playing a credible role."

Leading article, page 19

Touching tribute: President Yeltsin jokes as he pins a medal on Ludmila Jhokhova, a weaver, at a Moscow ceremony yesterday. Mr Yeltsin caused uproar when he fondled a female interpreter at a public function last year

German Army fights bullies within

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

THE German Army is being plagued by bullying and drug abuse in the barrack room, the military ombudswoman reported yesterday. Claire Marienfeld cited the case of a staff sergeant who ordered a conscript to run for several hundred metres with a heavy machinegun. When the soldier collapsed, he was dragged through mud back to the barracks. "In Adolf's time, you would have been gassed," bellowed the sergeant.

Other cases include a sergeant-major who used the handle of a hammer to beat the genitals of soldiers; a lance-corporal dragged out of his bed at night and kicked in the face until his jaw broke; and two corporals who poured lighter fluid on a colleague and set him alight. Drug abuse has increased from 1,058 registered cases in 1994 to 1,379 last year. Five soldiers died of overdoses.

WORLD SUMMARY

American call to cut UN dues

New York: America is to ask for a large cut in its United Nations dues as part of a five-year package designed to persuade Congress to pay almost $1 billion (£654 million) in UN debts (James Bone writes).

Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the UN, said Washington wants to cut its share of the UN budget from 25 to 20 per cent, and its contribution to peacekeeping from 30 to 25 per cent. There is likely to be strong opposition in the UN General Assembly, particularly from European nations, which would have to make up much of the shortfall.

ANC minister to be investigated

Johannesburg: South Africa's Public Protector announced that Nkosazana Zuma, the Health Minister, and a senior African National Congress figure, is to be investigated for corruption. The decision follows unsuccessful appeals for the minister to account for 14.2 million rands (£2.8 million) spent on an Aids musical. She has been accused of lying after the European Union denied it had funded the show.

Sudanese get a chance to vote

Sudan goes to the polls today after seven years of dictatorship (Sam Kiley writes). All political parties have been banned from the parliamentary and presidential elections, being held to legitimise the Islamic fundamentalist rulers. Hassan al-Turabi, the mastermind of Sudan's evangelical Islam, is likely to become parliamentary Speaker.

Rampage victim dies of wounds

Cuers, France: *Pierre Marigliano*, 68, has become the sixteenth person to die of gunshot wounds received last year when Eric Borel, 16, went on the rampage, committing one of the bloodiest crimes in modern French history. The French youth then committed suicide. *(Reuter)*

Nuns join forces with Italian feminists

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

A GROUP of Italian nuns gave new meaning yesterday to sisterhood by announcing that they are joining the feminist movement.

The nuns are to mark Women's Day on Friday by joining leading Italian feminists in an exploratory meeting at a *religious bookshop in the shadow of the* Vatican. "To be a woman means to be able to express my female nature without fear," Sister Emmanuelle Marie said.

"Witches and saints unite in struggle" was the unkind headline in *La Repubblica*. It added that "the sisters are no longer frightened virgins who do not know what goes on in the world and always defer to priests".

The *militant* nuns are led by Mother Lilia Capretti, head of the Italian Union of Mother Superiors, and a group of Salesian nuns headed by Sister Teresa Doni, a sociologist. They argue that nuns have much to contribute to the women's movement. "We are the foot soldiers of the Church, with direct experience of violence, poverty, drug addicts and Aids," said Mother Capretti.

Spain in limbo as tough talks fail to produce coalition

FROM EDWARD OWEN
IN MADRID

TWO days after Sunday's general election in which the conservative Popular Party (PP) was elected for the first time but without a working majority, Spaniards were still waiting yesterday to see if José María Aznar, the party leader, would be able to form a government.

The unexpected result — all opinion polls had predicted a comfortable victory for the PP over the Socialists, in power for more than 13 years — has sent ripples through the Madrid stock market and threatens to torpedo Spain's ambitions to be among the first European Union members to adopt the euro, the single currency.

The PP returned 156 deputies to the 350-seat congress and only the additional support of the Catalan and Basque nationalists, with 16 and five seats respectively, will give Señor Aznar a majority. However, the Catalans say they will abstain during the key vote for Señor Aznar's investiture. If the Socialists, with 141 seats, and the communist coalition, the United Left, with 21, vote against him, Spain faces another election — something all parties want to avoid.

"There is nothing odd or new about Señor González wanting to stay on with his Government. That's what he tried in these elections and without doubt, from his political position, he will try to do so," said Rodrigo Rato, expected to be PP's Finance Minister. Señor Rato is heading the negotiations with the Catalan nationalists, who are demanding a high price for their support. Señor Aznar has said he is seeking a coalition and will offer ministerial posts.

Pujol: demands high price for co-operation

"I know the difficulty, I have lived with it, but it is not an insurmountable difficulty," Señor González said, referring to his adversary's predicament.

Jordi Pujol, the Catalan nationalist president, has been angered by Señor Aznar's insults in the past, according to Ignacio Guardans, a newly elected Catalan deputy. If the two are to reach a deal, he says, the Catalans will want blood. This could mean formal recognition by the PP of Catalonia as a nation (without independence), a greater autonomy and a clarification of PP's budgetary plans.

Javier Arzallus, president of the Basque Nationalist Party, said he was willing to discuss pacts.

Business organisations have urged Señor Aznar to form a government as soon as possible to arrest a stock market fall.

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Weird world of the catwalk

PHOTOGRAPHS: SIMON WALKER

Who needs breasts anyway — Planet Fashion is a breastless place

Patsy Kensit and Yasmin Le Bon at the John Rocha show

The model moves slowly, like a dying gazelle. She is a zero, a nought. Photograph: CHRIS MOORE

The catwalk model's expression is gelid, her eyes inert

Even I would happily be seen wearing a bomber jacket

LONDON FASHION WEEK

Tunku Varadarajan is drawn to his first live fashion show — from the beautiful emptiness of the breastless models to the startlingly provocative clothes but he has serious doubts about the music

Observe a catwalk model walk, as I did at the London Fashion Week. She moves slowly, like a dying gazelle, her meagre hips hypnotic as she rolls them down the *passarella*. Observe the catwalk model's face: her expression is gelid, her eyes inert, her mouth parted in suggestive overstatement. Observe the catwalk model's breasts: well, actually, she has none, but who needs them anyway — Planet Fashion is a breastless place.

With her practised movements — unnaturally womanly — the catwalk model challenges you to think awkward things, to think the politically incorrect. She is a zero, a nought. She is a cipher-on-long-legs, chosen to weave past camera lenses wearing someone else's clothes, chosen for no reason other than her "beautiful emptiness" (to borrow a phrase from Mishima, who liked men anyway).

For this reason, and for this reason alone, the catwalk model is magnetic. And when she wears clothes designed by a man for whom fashion is hyperbole — clothes that twist the cipher alive — you could watch her walk for days without break. The gazelle does not have to die.

Fashion is hyperbole for Antonio Berardi. His latest autumn/winter collection set my mind alight as I savoured my first taste of live fashion — in a tent on the lawns of the Natural History Museum.

Berardi played some quite quixotic games with cloth. Take his "tweed suits": they are like *Country Life* on Ecstasy. The sleeves are huge, cut open along the length, and flap like mad flags even without a wind. And his frocks are gorgeous, dangerous visions in clamorous colours, with lots of flesh visible for those who appreciate the female expanse...

But let's be frank: you wouldn't want your wife or "partner" or daughter or mother to wear these clothes out of doors. These clothes are imperious. They would take over an entire square mile, at least, around a wearer-in-public. You would have to be as strong-willed as Neoprene to allow it, and she too.

Neoprene? No, it is not a medicine for pimply boys, nor even some new pill you pop to hear a few tunes. It is, as I learnt from a helpful neighbour at the John Rocha collection, the stuff with which wetsuits are made. Sounds hideous, does it not, and evocative of surfers at windswept St Ives. But in Rocha's hands, and on Mrs Simon Le Bon, the material was "as delicate-filmed as new-spun silk". A good dressmaker, this Rocha, and he aspires — as his PR bumph declaims — to "sensuality with masculine tones and military elements". Just the thing, clearly, for a bit of Neoprene.

But he is not all martial and manly, I assure you. The sweet-tempered girl in the queue before me, with nicely oversized lips, said that Rocha used to be the "underdog" of British fashion. What she meant by this I do not know, but a man as versatile as he now is cannot be anything but a pedigree overdog.

Even I, wedded to pinstriped suits and non-Berardi tweed coats, would happily be seen in a Rocha bomber jacket... Even walking past customs at Heathrow.

What I would never want to be seen in, though, is his new luminous green bloke's jacket, made from what looked like reinforced Cellophane. Men simply should not wear diaphanous things. Full stop.

Women, however, can, and must: they have a duty to do so. A shimmering blue "Cellophane" suit — the jacket with classic cut, the skirt ending mid-thigh — was my sapphire of the afternoon. Alpha for audacity, alpha for pizzazz, alpha for corrupting me completely.

But just when I started to believe that I was not such a fogey after all, I was jolted by a matter that should not escape censure. Berardi's collection was accompanied by a tacky soundtrack: that of a woman moaning feverishly, urging a man to abuse her.

Was I the only one to think of this as depraved? And was I the only one, of those hundreds huddled in the tent, to believe that Berardi would have played better to the sounds of Shostakovich? Almost certainly.

But what can be better for the catwalk girl than the *Leningrad Symphony*?

INSIDE SECTION 2
Will this year's Oscars reward high art and subtitles or high profits and conventional thrills
Page 33

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Lessons in choosing schools

It is a dilemma being played out across the country, when one parent believes in state education and one in fee-paying schools

Nigella Lawson

It is, by any account, embarrassing — excruciatingly embarrassing. But it is so fascinating, too: Michael Barbour, senior education adviser to the Labour Party, Dean of New Initiatives (now *there's* a title) at London University's Institute of Education and champion of comprehensive education, has admitted that he will be sending his youngest daughter to a fee-paying school. The compelling part is not the decision, although it has added greatly to the gaiety of political pundits, but the reason he gives for it: his missus.

"Essentially," he explains, "the issue is that my wife, Karen, and I don't necessarily agree about education and politics." He freely admits he would have preferred his daughter to have gone to a comprehensive, as did his other daughters, but his wife strongly demurred, and "I respect her views".

Professor Barbour has been so honest about all of this that it's difficult to see how the inevitable charges of hypocrisy can stick: he has offered to resign as governor of Hagerston Girls School (which his daughter might have attended); he has made no effort to abrogate responsibility for the decision, claiming it to have been made "as a family"; and he makes no attempt to absolve himself, admitting that "every parent that [sic] opts out makes the improvement of state schools more difficult, because it spreads doubt about their quality".

Professor Barbour's account of his wife's firmness on the subject is convincing: she had not been impressed by the education his two older daughters had received at comprehensive schools and was determined that Alys, their youngest, should be given a better opportunity.

Essentially, this is the dilemma every parent who believes in the idea of state education, while quaking at what is actually on offer, faces. And, indeed, it is not just in essence that this particular drama is played out in homes across the country, but in almost exactly the same detail. In other words, one parent furiously argues for the principles of state education while the other says: "Darling, I couldn't agree more, but look at the reality: you can *take* care of your principles if you like, but *I'm* more worried about our angel's education."

In couples like these, how can the idealist win over the pragmatist? Children have a way of making only the concrete seem important: you don't after all — even if you are a senior education adviser — want your daughter to get educated in theory, you want her to learn things in practice. And even if any doubts as to the efficacy of the state education on offer are out of proportion to what exists, how do you argue against a partner who is intransigent on the subject, without seeming like the most uncaring parent and high-handed spouse?

Perhaps it's just the company I keep, but I hear variations on this theme rehearsed over dinner parties regularly. Only the other day, I was sitting next to another Labour Party supremo, only one much more connected (Professor Barbour has, after all, also advised the Tory party on education) and much more highly connected at that, who was voicing exactly these concerns. He felt, he told me, that it was absolutely the duty of "people like us" to send our children to state schools and, while his wife agreed in principle and embraced his views, she wasn't prepared to see her children get a worse education than they need to on account of them. And where do I stand? I think they're both right — and I don't know where that'll lead me in a few years hence.

These days we like to believe in a relationship not as a union of opposites, but an undifferentiated linking of kindred spirits. We live in an age of single issue politics where everything must be subjugated to one intolerant, intransigent belief. People now express horror that one could actually share a joke or a dinner table with someone whose political views one not merely disagrees with but loathes, so it is beyond them that anyone could actually choose to live in fundamental political discord with someone else. But, of course, it happens: people can live happily with those whose views differ radically from their own.

The source of potential, but somehow avoided, conflict may be politics, it may be religion. Somehow the education issue is lifting the lid of the latter one now, too. I notice that friends fervently take up churchgoing so that they can send their children to church schools, while their spouses, for all that they profess to despise that or any organised religion, are perfectly happy to accede to their partner's wishes. You could call it pragmatism again: after all, it is a cheap way of getting a good education; but it is still odd to allow your child to be inculcated into something you deem pernicious and profess to hate. But it happens.

And I don't think it's altogether an accident, either. We know anyway that, in couples, people do seem unconsciously to seek out those who express certain characteristics or views that we might not allow or choose to recognise in ourselves. Thus quiet, timid people pair themselves off with show-offs, flibbertigibbets with seemingly incompatible dry old sticks and so on. But it happens, surely, with political expression, too.

I know many self-congratulatorily left-wing people who are saved by their spouse's often criticised reactionariness. How much easier it is, you see, to bang on about one's beliefs, one's integrity, one's ideals while knowing that, without impugning either oneself or the whole damn lot of them, one will not have to act on them. It's not hypocrisy: call it, rather, human nature. And it is, after all, the *point of marriage*: to provide balance and to protect each of us from our own excesses.

Real Parma ham from Brussels?

TODAY, an EU commission is called on to consider whether countries should be allowed to use names of specific foodstuffs generically. That is to say, should they allow manufacturers of cured ham from Manchester to call their product Parma ham, or must only ham from Parma pigs, cured in the time-honoured fashion, be allowed the name? Any sensible person should pray that the commissioners have the sense to stop Danish cheesemakers producing what they want to describe as feta, mozzarella or, mad though it sounds, West Country cheddar.

Should they do so, I'm afraid the reception won't be exactly warm in this country. We seem to consider any regard for a foodstuff's integrity as barmy Euro-rubbish and instantly decry it. But it does make a difference. Without any form of *appellation contrôlée*, the quality of what we are served in the name quickly deteriorates. In Italy, Parma ham means Parma ham, just as in France Puy lentils are indeed from Puy: the terms mean something. I happen to think that prosciutto di San Daniele is better than prosciutto di Parma: it's not that the name itself signifies the best, but that it signifies what it is. Over here, Parma ham is often used (not legally as yet) to describe all manner of hams that have never been anywhere near Italy let alone Parma, and it shows.

I ONCE tried to buy a good cheese sandwich in Somerset but it was impossible. Just because any old plasticky cheese can call itself cheddar doesn't mean it is cheddar. Furthermore, Danish mozzarella isn't mozzarella: it tastes different, it is different. Why should it be allowed to go by the same name? But maybe we get the cheeses we deserve. What a truly dreadful thought.

Time to give peace a chance

Martin Bell, the BBC's long-serving war reporter, has decided to hang up his flak jacket and plant geraniums in his upturned steel helmet

SYGMA

Thirty years' war: three decades after first encountering ethnic cleansing and war, in Nigeria and Vietnam, Martin Bell is still reporting on their consequences in Bosnia

IT SOUNDS the easiest of decisions for a veteran war reporter to make, to forswear the front lines for ever, to hand in the flak jacket; retire the white suit, to upend the steel helmet and hang geraniums from it under the porch. So in a sense it *is* an easy decision, for the risks and dangers that go with the job have never held much appeal for me. I am not what is known in the trade as a "headbanger", one of those fearless characters who draw an extra charge of excitement for venturing into the cannon's mouth and staying there.

It is true that, against the usual style of TV reporters, I do not habitually duck and weave while addressing the camera under fire; but that is to save energy, and because one can as easily duck into a bullet as away from one.

For weeks and months on end, especially in Bosnia, fear and trepidation have been my constant companions. I will gladly part with them for good, though I will admit to the satisfaction of survival at the end of a dangerous day — what Winston Churchill, an early practitioner, described as "the exhilaration of being shot at without result".

There remain some advantages to it, which fall far short of justifying an addiction, but which have kept me in the war zones when perhaps I should have quit. There is the privilege of witnessing history in the making, and the knowledge that television is, *for the first time*, contributing to its first draft. There is the inspiration of heroes — the heroism of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. There is the camaraderie of one's colleagues, an odd bunch and the strangest of people at the best of times, but the firmest of friends under fire.

There is, most of all, a different perception of what matters and what does not in our daily lives — a special sense of what not to take for granted. All of these will be hard to give up.

But the passage of time brings imperatives of its own. Even in the Gulf War I could not help noticing that, together with Philip Jacobson, who dispatches graced the pages of *this newspaper* and with whom I served alongside the 7th Armoured Brigade, I was the oldest man on the field of battle by six years; and that was five years ago. Today the joints creak under the weight of the body armour, so heavy that even soldiers are astonished by it; turn of speed across open ground is not as fast as it used to be; and the 15-mile hike with backpack through enemy lines (even if it is wise, which I have always doubted) would these days test my endurance to the limit.

'I don't duck and weave to camera under fire because one can as easily duck into a bullet as away from one'

It has been a longish career, nearly 30 years long. My first experience of what is now called ethnic cleansing was a tribal conflict in Northern Nigeria, the massacre and flight of Ibos, in the summer of 1966. My first experience of war was in Vietnam a few months later. I have found myself still reporting the consequences of both in Bosnia in 1996. And it was just before Christmas, while coming under fire at an illegal Croat roadblock outside Mrkonic Grad, that I concluded that the time had come for a change.

BBC TV NEWS

Shot in Bosnia, Bell realised it was time for a change

I have hung out with soldiers for a long time, and hope to have learnt from them that most difficult of military manoeuvres — an orderly retreat. This will not be a panic-driven rout, but rather a phased withdrawal. The first phase, under the personal disengagement plan, will be one last valedictory assignment to Bosnia next month. It will encompass the Implementation Force (Ifor) deadline known as "D plus 90", the final transfer of land and authority between the constituent parts of Bosnia under the Dayton agreement. *It will (I hope) draw the line* under peace of a kind, not peace with honour, but preferable to the only alternative, which is war without end.

'Even in the Gulf War I couldn't help noticing that I was the oldest man on the field of battle by six years'

I know very few of my war-zone colleagues who ever consciously set out to be war reporters. It is something that happens, rather like the weather, and we find ourselves caught up in it. We don't choose this career: it chooses us. But when it is over, what do we do next? For what else are we even remotely qualified? This is my present predicament; and it is possible that journalists, like actors, can become so typecast as to be unemployable elsewhere.

I have had one notion, which I have duly floated in the appropriate circles, that since there is a general election campaign in the offing, and the language of elections is regularly conducted in the metaphors of warfare, why not go all the way and hire a real war reporter to do the business?

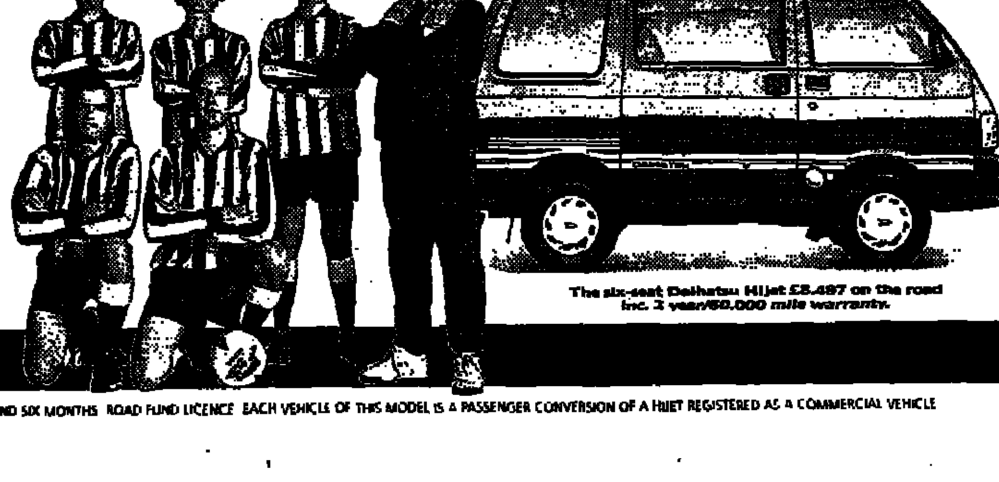
The idea has a certain logic and appeal to it. The campaign itself, the tactics and strategies that go with it, the generalship of the party leaders, the set-piece offensives, the big guns wheeled out to fire their broadsides and salvoes — what else is this but the language of the battlefield, often imperfectly understood, through which politics is communicated to the voters and becomes the extension of warfare by other means?

Clausewitz himself would have been intrigued. And as for me, I should welcome the clash of soundbites and the skirmishing of spin-doctors — all the excitement of combat without the danger.

But alas, it may not happen. The BBC has an excellent *specialist political staff, hardly* in need of reinforcement, and we war reporters are not always the most welcome of visitors wherever we go. Rather, we tend to be seen as birds of ill-omen. "I knew things were bad," is the commonest reaction when we are seen approaching, "but I didn't know they were *that* bad."

Besides, I have been this way before, when the political staffs were much smaller, in the general elections of the early 1970s, the pendulum years; and even then I earned a *reputation as a sort of* travelling jinx. A *Daily Mirror* columnist noted in April 1974: "Knowing eyebrows are being raised at the choice of Martin Bell to report Opposition Leader Edward Heath's election campaign tour. Every time Bell has traipsed along for the BBC his man has lost. In 1970, Bell followed Harold Wilson. And Ted won. Earlier this year, Bell joined Ted. And Harold won." (Of course, it turned out that Harold won again.)

The future is clouded and uncertain, much like the past. The months ahead will show clearly enough whether there is life after the war zones. If not, the alternative to the war zones will be . . . more war zones. One way or another, a man has to make his living.



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Alan Coren

■ Camcorders as jailbird bait, eh? It's the end of the free gift as we know it

Come with me to the margin. That is where real life happens. It always does. Remember the Bayeux Tapestry? How, in the broad flashy centre, the putatively major events of history roll awesomely on — kings, bishops, generals inextricably enmeshed in the power play of treaty and treachery, conquest and massacre, all the big stuff — while, down in the seemingly inconsequential border, all the little stuff reels out: priapic friars stalk milkmaids, fat burghers smack serfs, ragamuffins nick hens, matrons and goatboys fall into hayricks, tosspots fall into cowpats ... Down there, without doubt, is where the real 11th century goes about its business.

And now we have newspapers. Page after headlined page of notional pith and moment from every fraught cranny of the globe, yet so little of it touching our core, until, suddenly, there is a single paragraph of News in Brief on, let us say, page nine of *The Times* yesterday:

> Twenty-nine people wanted for failing to attend court, or who had been sentenced in their absence, were arrested after police lured them to a hotel in Liverpool by offering free camcorders. They had all received letters asking for volunteers in a market survey.

Real life, or what? Apart, of course, from the sheer relish of the scenario: the briefing session, the young DS shouting "Look, Guv, I could be well out of order here, but what if we ...", his DCI muttering that it might just work. God knows we've tried everything else, the cut to the Horatio Bottomley Suite of the Scouse Hilton, a dozen CID officers in shiny suits and cheesy smiles welcoming the slavering audience of 29 camcorder-ravenous wallies to the marketing opportunity of a lifetime, the joyous denouement as, on a synchronised nod, the doors are locked, the badges flashed, the rights read out ...

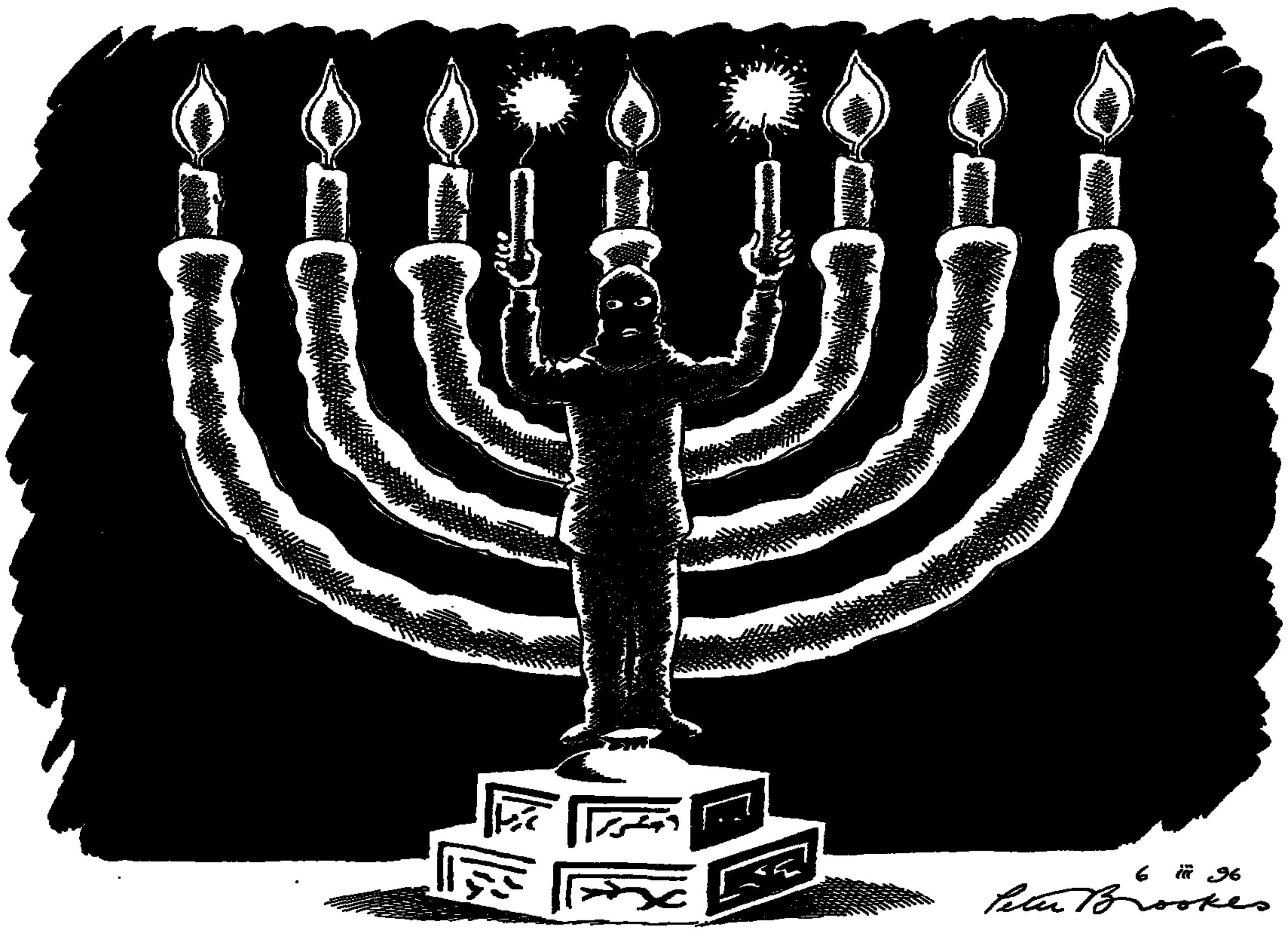
But it is much more than this. It is more even than a wondrous shaft of clear cold light into the murky corners of our huckstering, double-dealing, free-offering, card-scratching, prize-grubbing, something-for-nothing world in which even crime-hardened villains may be conned out of their professional wariness by an appeal to that freebie greed which now holds each and every citizen of New Camelot in thrall.

What makes the fell swoop of the Mersey Bill even more than this is the strong possibility that their action may very well kill all the geese that lay tin eggs. For how can any of us be certain ever again that the appealing con we have just been junk-mailed does not conceal a greater con calculated to get us where we have hitherto managed not to be got? Is any of us so confident of spotlessness as to take that risk?

A cold call, say, informs me that my house has been selected from thousands for the trial of an astonishing new Tonkinese fitted kitchen worth twenty grand, which will be installed for nothing in return for my allowing it to be used in future publicity, and their team will be in my area tomorrow. Shall I invite them in, only to have them whip off their dungarees and begin asking me about apparent discrepancies in my Schedule D tax return? A letter arrives, fifth of a sequence, pleading that if I do not turn up tomorrow at the spot arrowed on the enclosed map, then my absolutely free Ford Granada / diamond Rolex / fortnight with Sharon Stone will be forfeit: if I rush round, will I discover not only that I cannot get any of these unless I agree to buy Benidorm, but also that two large men from the Serious Stationery Squad are waiting to arrest me for the theft of corporate ballpoints, typing paper, rubber bands and de luxe box files, going back to 1965?

Never mind the normal errors that too often accompany the kind of constabulary enthusiasm shown in Liverpool: it is not impossible that, should I accept the offer of a buckshee personal organiser for joining The Cricklewood Book Club, I might open the door to take delivery only to find my collar being felt by a man in a flak jacket informing me that they have got me bang to rights for the Abbey National ram-raid, do not argue, sunshine, it is all on the computer, prints, DNA, everything.

Real life has just changed. From today, there is no such thing as a free carriage clock.



Bombers in command

Political bombs are smart weapons, whether in Israel or Ulster — but they only succeed if the politicians let them

Simon Jenkins

Nineteen ninety-six should be declared the Year of the Bomb. In Bosnia the Americans claimed to have bombed the Serbs to the negotiating table. In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Hamas bombing the Israeli Government away from it. In Northern Ireland the IRA has bombed Sinn Fein into talks, then away from them, now possibly back to them again.

Bombs have become standard issue in the diplomacy of ethnic conflict. They are to constitution-building what the tough cop is to crime-busting. A bomb brings to a poised negotiation a sudden cuff round the ear and a spatter of blood. Its death and destruction are not ends in themselves. They are a means to an end. They generate such terror and outrage as to alter a negotiating balance. Political bombs are thus "smart" weapons. Clausewitz would treat them as surgical injections into the politics of peace. Those who dismiss bombers as psychopathic anarchists are fools. Bombs work because their victims let them work, by tearing up treaties and seeking revenge. Such responses do not deter the bomber; they validate his tactics. They are what he wants. They may be human but they are stupid.

Yesterday, in a letter to *The Times* written before the latest Tel Aviv bomb, Lord Jakobovits pleaded with the Israelis to show courage. They should, he wrote, "pursue the peace efforts as if there were no terrorism, and fight the terrorists as if there were no peace efforts". He cited Chaim Weizmann's plea to wartime Jews to help Britain against Hitler as if Britain had not opposed a Jewish state, yet to resist that opposition as if there were no war against Hitler.

The former Chief Rabbi's choice of antithesis is persuasive but dangerous. The terrorist is seeking to undermine the pursuit of peace by evoking just the response that Lord Jakobovits advocates: that he be fought "as if there were no peace effort". He wants the full vengeance of the Israeli state to be brought down on the head of his community, to feed its paranoia, destroy the peace party and recharge the batteries of fanaticism. The only thing he dreads is to be regarded as a common criminal, divorced from his community. His actions must not seem like a random accident, like a coach crash or a madman loose with a gun. He wants to be a "terrorist", fought as if there were no peace. He insists that his monstrous act be anointed with the oil of politics.

Master craftsman of the political bomb is the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams. Last week he continued to reap the harvest of the IRA's 25 years of explosive havoc. British ministers have long rejected Lord Jakobovits's plea "that peace efforts should be pursued as if there were no terror". They have asserted the opposite. They have said that there could be no move towards peace "until the violence stops". I have heard those words from every single Northern Ireland Secretary for the past decade, including Sir Patrick Mayhew. British ministers, rarely in Belfast for more than two years, always profess to detect that "the IRA is on its last legs".

For a quarter of a century, IRA bombs have demoralised Unionists, transfixed British Governments and bled British taxpayers. Two years ago, in a burst of exasperation, John Major abandoned the "no talks unless the violence ceases" policy. He did what he had said would make his stomach churn. He admitted the IRA bombers to what he called the peace process. In doing so he pulled off a coup, an IRA ceasefire which lasted longer than the two previous ones. But he failed to sideline the IRA. He kept it centre-stage by insisting on the "decommissioning" of weapons. Having dropped that condition, he insisted on early elections, which the IRA was able to enlist Dublin in opposing.

Sinn Fein will win seats in those elections and Mr Major must presumably find a form of words that admits it to the talks called for June 10. Since any words on a ceasefire from Mr Adams will be worthless, the concession to the power of the bomb will be total. Yet these laborious manoeuvres have led the British Government almost exactly to where it was in 1982. That was the date of Lord Prior's short-lived assembly and rolling devolution. (Negotiating Northern Ireland is like fighting the Kaiser in Flanders. One more push and you are back where you started.)

Even for connoisseurs of Ulster folklore this past week has been grimly familiar. On Monday, everyone but Sinn Fein was invited to "proximity talks" in yet another costly Stormont conference centre, tailored to the towering egos of those involved. As always in that wretched place, every participant reverted to type. The Official Unionists boycotted, saying that because Irish ministers were present they would only talk to British ministers in London. Ian Paisley would not come because of the lavish suite for some reason granted to Dublin's Foreign Minister, Dick Spring. The SDLP jeered that "the Unionists could run but they could not hide". Mr Adams tried to attend but was turned away at the gate for not having a written ticket. Ministers paced up and down drinking coffee. Sir Patrick Mayhew broke off to sing the Secretary of State's "goodwill-on-all-sides" aria. This show is now in its 23rd incredible year. Each time, failure is celebrated by an IRA bomb and a Unionist backlash.

In Israel a peace settlement reached after two decades of conflict is now jeopardised by just three bombs. These have apparently the power to unhinge a process on which the happiness and prosperity of hundreds of thousands depend. In Northern Ireland, IRA bombers are no more representative of their communities than Hamas. Yet for the past decade, their possession of Semtex has granted them a veto on the progress of reform in the Province. British Governments have refused to budge without an IRA ceasefire. Even the terms of the recent ceasefire, that all-party talks would be not take place if it ended, implied that veto.

The one silver lining to the cloud of the Docklands bomb appears to be a break in this British Government mindset. Mr Major has said that the June talks should proceed even without another ceasefire and whether or not Sinn Fein is present. This is indeed 1982 reborn, but I suppose we should grasp at straws. I have yet to find a British minister who can explain why it has taken so long, and so many lives, to return to this same turn on the road. But to get back to 1982 is progress. For 14 years the bomber has been allowed to divert the spotlight from political reform onto the "armed struggle". For 14 years he has monopolised the debate.

The talks will fail. They will fail because all such talks suffer a systemic flaw. Their chosen mechanism, grand talks, grand settlement, grand assembly and grand unitary government, is inappropriate for a divided community. The dance will continue to midnight. Northern Ireland's senior politicians are as eager as Westminster's, or Washington's, for grandeur. They want power, patronage, glory. They will deny that there is an irreconcilable divergence between the goals of the two communities. This time, they say, a Stormont assembly can be made to work. When it fails they will walk out and blame the British. When the next bomb explodes they will say: "We told you so."

The continued search for a grand settlement in Northern Ireland is crass. There can only be small settlements in the individual communities that make up the Province. The rudiments of such settlements are in place, on the councils and quangos derided as parish pump politics by the panjandrums of direct rule at Stormont. As bombs went off in London last month, Sinn Fein councillors in Belfast were meeting Unionists to support Ulster's orchestra, and went on meeting. Next week a Sinn Fein councillor is marketing Derry in America. Northern Ireland is already a patchwork of minor power-sharing executives. These are the building blocks for a future devolved local government in Northern Ireland. The last thing they need is a revival of Stormont and its sectarian antics.

But bottom-up reform lacks the glamour of the Big Settlement. Nobody wins a Nobel Prize for reviving local government. Nobody gets paid big money that way. Nobody, I am sometimes tempted to think, really wants it all to end. So the dance continues. And so do the bombs.

Boys who learn to be losers

Chris Woodhead

on the white male culture of failure

The failure of boys, and in particular white working-class boys, is one of the most disturbing problems we face within the whole education system. Research shows that white working-class boys are the least likely to participate in full-time education after the age of 16, and that white boys are the most likely to be completely unqualified on leaving compulsory education.

Girls outperform boys at seven, 11 and 14 in national curriculum assessments in English, maths and science. Girls are more successful than boys at every level in the GCSE. Girls are more successful than boys in almost all major subjects and are now achieving success in traditional boys' subjects such as design and technology, computer studies, mathematics and chemistry. Physics is the only subject in which boys now outperform girls.

These findings, worrying as they are, need to be put alongside the results of school inspections showing that, in most schools serving areas of urban disadvantage, boys and girls alike continue to underperform. Standards in reading and writing remain well below national norms. In schools serving the most disadvantaged areas, less than 15 per cent of pupils achieve five or more GCSE grades A-C. The best schools in these areas achieve average GCSE point scores per pupil which are only about one third of that of schools in more advantaged areas.

There is perhaps nothing surprising in these figures. Such schools can, after all, experience huge problems. It may be very difficult to recruit and retain good teachers. Disruptive pupil behaviour may be exacerbated by inadequate parental support. The fact is that our most disadvantaged children, especially boys, remain disadvantaged at the end of their schooling. Ofsted's experience so far with failing schools, which include significant numbers of boys-only schools in disadvantaged areas (the recently closed Hackney Downs for one) confirms this.

Why? The honest answer is that nobody knows and it becomes increasingly important that we find out. Theories, of course, abound. Is it that girls want to please their teachers more? Is is that lessons have become more unstructured than they once were, and that girls can cope with this better than boys? Is it that in some primary schools there are few, if any, men to act as role models for the boys? Nowadays even the caretaker may, it seems, be a woman. Is it that employment prospects for boys are bleaker than they are for girls and that there is no motivation, therefore, for boys to work? Or, in areas where unemployment is not as high, that white working-class boys are more confident than their peers from ethnic minorities that they will secure jobs without any qualifications? Do we, as a consequence, now have a culture among white working-class boys which is deliberately and explicitly anti-educational? Is there, as some social commentators would have us believe, a general crisis in male confidence and our teachers are simply trying to pick up the pieces of the shattered male ego?

It is widely believed that many minority communities have a greater commitment to education and value qualifications more highly. Conversely, the Education Select Committee concluded last year that there was, in white working-class communities, a lack of a general educational culture.

Solutions to the problem do not, however, depend upon any all-encompassing psycho-social theory. Anti-educational cultures grow out of the experience of educational failure. Boys who do not learn to read at primary school are boys who are likely to play truant at secondary school. It is, therefore, extremely disturbing to find that one in five of the seven-year-olds in schools involved in Ofsted's recent inspection of reading in three London boroughs achieved no score at all when tested at seven. Boys were, predictably enough, outperformed by girls in these tests. We must, whatever else we do, ensure that standards of literacy and numeracy are raised in inner-city primary schools so that all pupils, but particularly boys, are equipped with the basic skills upon which all learning depends.

It is also clear that our secondary school system has been too preoccupied with academic excellence. This is why Sir Ron Dearing's review of 16-19 education is so important. The challenge is to preserve the integrity of the academic, while developing rigorous and challenging vocational courses that can motivate pupils (in particular boys) who by the age of 14 have rejected the traditional academic diet. Much remains to be done before we can be sure that we have in place courses which will convince boys alienated by school that there is a reason to continue in education and training.

Other initiatives are worth pursuing. Better liaison with parents will, of course, pay dividends. Pupils who do not have facilities at home will benefit from homework clubs. In the future, education for parenting may do something to help with the problem of boys living in single-parent families who have no role models. But the essential challenge must be to ensure that the foundations of literacy and numeracy are laid securely in primary school, and that secondary schools have access to a range of appropriate courses for girls and, above all, boys of all abilities.

The author is Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools.

Lofty plans

ONE OF Scotland's richest landowners is clearing out his attic. Johnny Dumfries, the 7th Marquess of Bute, has instructed Christie's to dispose of chattels worth £200,000 from his enormous home, Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute, at an all-day sale later this month.

Islanders are taking a rum view of the disposal, which includes a well-used commode valued at up to £6,000 and a 15ft bronze urn which could go under the gavel for £15,000. "It sounds like selling the family silver to me," said one tenant.

Dumfries, a former racing driver, inherited more than £100 million and a 25,000-acre estate two-and-a-half years ago after the death of his father, and he appears determined to boost his income from the estate.

He has enraged tenants with demands for rent increases of up to 500 per cent; he has placed his father's beloved pleasure cruiser, *King Duck*, on the market for £150,000 after informing one of the crew that he was no longer required; and his stepmother, *Lady Jennifer*, is moving out after an alleged row with Dumfries.

Old man Bute was considered a benevolent landlord who did not appear to have to resort to tough managerial measures to raise money. One islander fondly recalls how the late marquess discovered a Dutch Old Master which had been lying in a cupboard for years. "He found it was worth £2.4 million."

Christie's duly points out that the sale is no more than an attic clearance: "Mount Stuart has a very big attic."

Dumfries: clearout

● *The truth at last about the Labour luvvy John Mortimer's fantastic tales is revealed by his daughter Emily. In next month's* Harpers & Queen, *she says her father tells porkies: "He'll always tell a lie if it makes things more interesting. He fibs and never feels bad about it."*

Day job

DAVID MELLOR appears to be planning for the worst and seeking alternative employment. Pre-empting a possible Labour victory in his Putney constituency at the general election, he has put himself forward to the BBC as a daytime television presenter, I understand.

Along with an eclectic group of sports personalities, including the footballer-turned-radio-presenter Garth Crooks, he is proposing a day-time sports programme. This would be his first regular TV job, but the Beeb has yet to bite on it — Mellor's cheesy grin is not to everybody's taste.

Seoul mate

JOHN MAJOR has discovered a source of succour and support. It is not his wife Norma, nor even his fleshy biographer, Bruce Anderson. He is enjoying a love affair with Korea.

Yesterday he indulged in official talks with President Kim Young Sam for the third time in a year, arriving in Seoul to a hero's welcome from the *Korea Herald* which highlighted "the fortitude and dynamism of the Conservative host of 10 Downing Street.

"He led the country in the face of diverse challenges from his critics at home and opponents abroad. The current political and economic stability of the proud nation goes to the credit of his strong leadership."

THE TIMES DIARY

● *Europe continues to divide the Tories, but it's certainly not going to trouble Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister. Pressed in the Commons yesterday about a Euro directive requiring the equal treatment of men and women at work and its effect on the Services, he came clean: "I am sorry, but this EC nonsense is beyond me."*

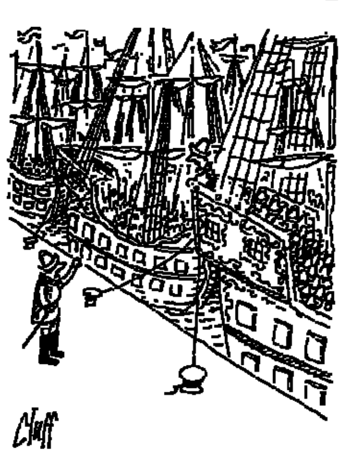
Top dog

AFTER THE Scott report comes the much more exciting Scottie report. Today the Westminster Dog of the Year competition, in aid of the National Canine Defence League, is to be judged. It will come down to a choice between a Tory mutt or a Labour pooch. "Although about 50 dogs have entered," says a spokeswoman, "we have not had a single entry from the Liberal Democrats. Perhaps it is a taste of things to come in the general election. David Owen says he is not entering his dog because he already knows it is the best."

Service call

AT LONDON'S fancy Ivy restaurant this week, I nearly choked on my oysters when I spotted a fellow journalist, Alexander Chancellor, wielding a mobile phone. It's simply not done at the Ivy, as I explained to Chancellor after the meal. He had the perfect excuse:

"I'd been waving my arms about for ages but I couldn't attract a waiter," he said. "They were just very busy, so I rang up the restaurant from the table and asked for more coffee. They were astonished." And, doubtless, admonished.



"Scrub the Armada, we're suing them instead"

● *I am delighted to report that Hong Kong has benefited from the Foreign Secretary's largesse. Instead of trousering the £50 he won off Martin Lee, leader of the Hong Kong Democratic Party, after a wager over Britain's decision to grant visa-free access to Hong Kong citizens, Malcolm Rifkind donated it to a local charity.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

EUROPE'S REALISTS

Britain bids boldly for the ear of France

Malcolm Rifkind made an important speech on European foreign policy yesterday, made it in Paris, and astutely hinted what a relief it was to be discussing such matters with fellow-adults. Without once mentioning Germany, he remarked that "for reasons we understand", some countries were embarrassed to refer to national interests, preferring "the language of European interests".

France and Britain, he went on, were schooled instead by imperial history and their continued worldwide commitments to *take foreign and defence policy seriously.* They took the national interest as their starting point; and they were right to do so *since in a modern democracy it was an* enlightened concept, "the collective expression of the democratic process". With France, Britain could discuss the world as it really is, not as "those who sleep with the Treaty of Rome under their pillow" might wish it to be.

From this starting point — one which would have been unthinkable for a British Foreign Secretary during the Mitterrand years — Mr Rifkind proceeded to take apart the Franco-German plans for developing the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP).

The CFSP, Mr Rifkind said tactfully, had achieved much in its first three years and he was as determined as anybody to build on this. Provided they were workable, Britain had no wish to quibble over precise institutional arrangements. But there was no getting around the core requirement: CFSP policies must be genuinely shared. He, therefore, welcomed the "implicit recognition" by France and Germany that Britain would not give way on majority voting.

The solution now advocated by the French and German Governments is "constructive abstention". A country that objected to a policy could not block it but would not have to join in implementing the decision. EU funds could still be used and the country concerned would be expected to show "diplomatic and financial solidarity". Mr Rifkind cut through this sophistry with a lawyer's elegance. He was careful not to denounce the scheme outright: it would be fine, he said, where countries were unable to join in implementing a policy they supported, as with Germany and Unprofor. But if it became majority voting in disguise, it would be an absurdity. There was already provision under Maastricht for majority decisions on the implementation of a policy once agreed; no "clever institutional fixes" would compel countries that actually disagreed with a policy to support it. Would France have "*constructively abstained*" from an EU policy against nuclear tests?

Britain's case for the IGC will be that in *many important areas the national interests* of European Union governments coincide and there is "genuine added value in joint action". Where disagreements are minor, joint action could still be feasible. But the construction of joint positions cannot be an end in itself:"a sham display of unity convinces nobody, particularly not those who can sense the exercise of real power".

The difficulty with British pragmatism is that its positive proposals tend to look small and unimaginative. Mr Rifkind has understood the French need for a grand "European" gesture. He attempted to meet it by offering British support for a new foreign policy representative of the EU who could give the EU a "clearer voice".

Mr Rifkind's essential message is that Britain is prepared to work at making the CFSP "an increasingly robust complement" to national policies; but that in the real world, it is no replacement for them because "Europe does not yet have the single coherent world vision, the deep-rooted instincts of a national foreign policy". Outside the framework of an EU intergovernmental conference, this may sound like the simplest of truths. France, which has never in practice allowed EU dogma to affect its freedom of action in foreign policy, may indeed think much like Britain. But Mr Rifkind is right to try to convert tacit sympathy into working alliance. Even with President Chirac, it will not be easy.

HOME TRUTHS

Neither party's housing policies are likely to impress voters

Tony Blair's effort to represent Labour as the "party of home ownership" may seem like another audacious incursion into ideological territory which the Tories had long regarded as their own. But with the general election approaching, Tory strategists would be rash to ignore this latest theft of their clothes.

Mr Blair's main message is likely to resonate with the public: the Tories have turned themsleves into "the homewreckers' party — the party of negative equity, of repossessions, broken dreams and falling house values, the party which encouraged people to buy their own homes and then turned on them once they had done so". This accusation will strike many voters as justified whatever may be said about the impracticality or irrelevance of the specific new policies proposed by Mr Blair.

To look at these proposals in detail there is indeed very little to help existing victims of negative equity and excessive mortgage borrowing, although there are some ideas to make these mishaps less likely in the future. Particularly welcome is Mr Blair's call for mortgage lending to be included under the Financial Services Act, which would require lenders to offer their customers "best advice". If such regulation had been in force in the 1980s, millions of homeowners would have been saved from unsuitable endowment mortgages which make it far more *difficult to escape from negative equity. But* protecting future borrowers from unsuitable endowment mortgages will do nothing to *help those who were trapped in the 1980s.*

To offer any substantial help to these people would require something more controversial than regulation of the way mortgages are marketed in future. For many people with negative equity, the main hope of relief could come from cashing in endowments to pay down their mortgages. But the present structure of endowment policies makes this inordinately expensive and difficult. To force lenders and insurance companies to compensate those who had been sold inappropriate mortgages in the 1980s would take retrospective legislation or very aggressive regulatory arm-twisting.

As the general election approaches ministers will no doubt draw attention to such holes in Labour's plans. But this is unlikely to be enough to win back disillusioned voters. Millions of Britons have suffered big financial losses in the housing market. They blame the Government for tempting them into home ownership at the worst possible time and for creating the financial free-for-all which left them saddled with excessive and badly structured mortgages.

To win these people back the Government will have to do more than ridicule Labour. It will have to come up with a credible explanation of how homeowners can claw their way out of negative equity in an economy where house prices will rise only slowly, if at all. The Government must ensure that people can arrange mortgages *suited* to their personal circumstances in an atmosphere of financial plain-dealing. It must then maintain the environment of low *interest rates and steady growth which will* allow these loans to be paid off.

SEND FOR SERENA

Heads-up sitrep: some of our paintings are missing

The Colonel tinkled the Benin mess bell. Halberdier mess corporal Groggin shimmered in silently, but still with that regimental *snap for which the* Halberdiers are famous. "Another pink gin, Colonel?" he asked with the deferential understanding taught as basic training for his trade.

"Groggin," barked Colonel Tommy. "I know we do not discuss religion, politics or women in this mess. But desperate situations call for desperate what-have-yous. Things have gone Awol. We are going to be caught with our Number One mess trousers down at the next audit unless we smarten up our ideas."

"There is always bound to be a certain amount of leakage from the night bar, sir," sighed Corporal Groggin. "Young officers will forget to enter their names in the book. And I have known mess waiters to water the whisky. But if I catch one of them at it, I will have his guts for a duster to polish the regimental silver."

"No, not whisky; we seem to have lost some paintings," said the Colonel. "There is a frightful flap at the Ministry of Defence. Some Whitehall Warrior from the National Audit Office has counted all the Army's paintings out and failed to count 184 of them back. And now the whole story has leaked to the reptiles in Parliament and the press."

Corporal Groggin looked round the mess he loved. The oil-painting of the unbroken square of Halberdiers at Omdurman, or was it Chillianwalla, hung in its place of *honour over the fireplace.* The table was lit with huge many-branched candlesticks which commemorated the military history of the last century *in silver palm trees and* bowed silver savages. "Of course, there is that unregimental picture of the civilian woofter which the young gentlemen use as a target for snooker balls," said the corporal. "But that is in no condition to show to the snoopers from the National Audit Office."

"Damned busybodies!" cried the Colonel. "This is what comes from letting civilians into family matters. The Halberdiers liberated a lot of our paintings in Germany at the end of the war. Others came to us when we were amalgamated with the Cuirassiers. But this Comptroller Wallah says that any Army paintings that have not wandered off are still hung where they are at risk. At least we can do some damage limitation."

"I doubt it, sir," said corporal Groggin. "There is no such place as a safe location on mess night. But you know the RSM's motto about Bullshit Baffles Brains. The wife of the Minister of State for the Armed Forces recently recovered property that burglars had stolen from her when the police had failed. If the Halberdiers were to engage her as investigator to look for our missing paintings, it would be a gesture to baffle the accountants. And she might even find them."

"If only we can remember what they are," said the Colonel. "But you are right, as usual, Groggin. Thank you. And now I think I will have that pink gin."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hostages' fate and Rushdie fatwa

From Lord Howe of Aberavon, QC

*Sir, I am naturally reluctant to take is*sue with Jill Morrell, John McCarthy and their friends after all that they suffered. But their letter (March 2) rests upon a fundamental misunderstanding of the reference to hostages by the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, on *Newsnight* on February 26.

Throughout the Iran/Iraq conflict Britain's policy was indeed one of strict neutrality. The sale of arms manufacturing equipment — to either side — was never an objective, still less a predominant one. On the contrary.

The hoped-for relaxation of the so-called "Howe guidelines" in light of the ceasefire in August 1988 would have *applied equally* to both countries. That posed no risk to the safety of the hostages (or other prisoners), whether it became public or not.

What did worsen their plight, however, was the Iranian fatwa pronounced against Salman Rushdie in February 1989. Particularly galling — even more for the hostages and their families than for me — was the fact that *this came just one week after my sec*ond meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, reaffirming our move of a few months before to restore diplomatic relations between our two countries. That had improved our chance of pressing the hostages' case.

But the barbaric fatwa, as I told a strongly supportive House of Com*mons* (report, February 22, 1989), left us no option but to put that relationship back into the icebox. And that required, ceasefire or no, strict control of exports to Iran. It was that (necessarily discriminatory) tightening of the guidelines which, if made public in *that form, might amongst other* things have increased the risk to the hostages.

The Government's response to the fatwa was carefully measured. And when, in the weeks that followed, William Waldegrave and I met the hostages' families, they continued to accept with deep and understandable anxiety the necessary wisdom of Brit*ain's stand against doing deals to* secure the release of their loved ones.

We still have nothing but admiration for the courage with which, throughout those dark years, they bore the grimly fluctuating balance between hope and despair.

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY HOWE
(Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs, 1983-89),
House of Lords.
March 5.

Arms trade

From Mr Bernard L. Baboulène

Sir, In the fallout from the Scott report it is good to see the sheer wickedness of the arms business getting a men*tion* (letters, February 29, March 2), and one would like to see more. All the arguments about jobs and the balance of trade must have applied in their day to slavery and the slave trade, especially the well-worn "if we don't do it someone else will".

So three cheers for Anatole Kaletsky for demolishing them all ("Morals more than markets", February 27). *Someone has to take a lead.*

Kaletsky shows how slight and temporary the economic effects would be, and if the will is there the problems of definition would soon fade. "When is a slave not a slave?" would have made a good controversial feature 200 years ago.

Yours faithfully,
B. L. BABOULENE,
10 Richmond Avenue, SW20.
February 27.

From Mr Victor Serebriakoff

Sir, Saferworld's letter (February 29) would be good advice if it were realistic.

The Western world which, with all its faults, is generally reliable and trustworthy, happens to have the largest, most advanced and fastest-advancing arms industries. And as the Gulf War has proved, technical superiority is of enormous and growing importance in disabling an enemy with the least collateral damage. Maintaining this superiority is only possible if there is a large cash flow from selling arms — wherever possible, less advanced ones.

All attempts at agreements among first world countries to limit arms to irresponsible regimes break down in the face of competition, and often corruption. They get the arms somehow. If the West did what it would prefer to do, and set limits on the arms trade, *the vital revenue would go to even less* scrupulous regimes.

The way to stop evil despots from starving their people to buy arms could best be done via the financial system. Bankers have it in their power to block transfers of cash for undesirable arms deals and governments can insist that they do.

Yours etc,
VICTOR SEREBRIAKOFF,
Flat 1,
6 The Paragon, SE3.
March 1.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Fast response to oil spillages at sea

From Commander Martin Sands, RN

Sir, The *Sea Empress* disaster at Milford Haven (letters, February 23, 28, March 1) has again demonstrated the conflicts of interest which arise between the parties in a salvage situation. Once the salvor has got the casualty to accept a salvage agreement his *sole aim is to save the ship and be suit*ably rewarded for doing so. He gets nothing if unsuccessful.

The whole incident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Milford Haven Port Authority, whose remit includes a responsibility for the safety of the en*vironment. It must have been obvious* to all concerned, as this extraordinary drama unfolded, that to bring the stricken ship, pouring out vast quantities of oil, actually into the Haven and to let it continue to do so for some days, would greatly increase the calamity for the leisure-based economy of Pembrokeshire, upon which most of the population ultimately depend.

It must have crossed their minds that the cost of this pollution to Pembrokeshire would far outweigh the value of the ship and what remained of her cargo. Despite the inevitable opposition of the salvors a sensible solution in the public interest would have been *to deny her entry* and insist that she be taken a long way out to sea to be pumped out as weather and other circumstances permitted, and to accept the possibility of her total loss and some pollution in the open ocean.

Presumably only the Government had the authority to demand such a course of action, but not, alas, the bottle. If ever a case merited an independent inquiry this one does.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN SANDS,
The Longhouse, West Williamston,
Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire.
March 1.

From the Director-General of the UK Petroleum Industry Association

Sir, Professor C. M. Perrins and his co-signatories, in their comments on the "tragic mismanagement" of the *Sea Empress* disaster (letter, February 28), blame the oil industry for having failed to learn the lessons of the *Braer disaster of 1993. They appear to be un*aware that the rapid-reaction team which they call for already exists and immediately swung into action when the *Sea Empress* ran aground in Milford Haven.

Following the *Braer* spill the UK oil *industry set up a new voluntary* arrangement with the Government's marine pollution control unit to provide immediate additional professional support and assistance in the event of a similar spillage, particularly where responsibility for the tanker or its cargo resides outside the UK (as was the case with the *Braer*).

Your correspondents are also incorrect to focus the *recommendations of* the Donaldson report on the oil industry. The report was commissioned by the Government, and decisions on its recommendations have been taken by Government. The industry has set rigorous safety standards and, in con*sultation with relevant groups, drawn* up emergency plans and procedures, including the provision of resources and materials and these were indeed mobilised in the case of the *Sea Empress.*

Your correspondents' accusations seem far from the facts, no matter how serious the incident nor its subsequent consequences.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FREND,
Director-General,
UK Petroleum Industry Association,
9 Kingsway, WC2.
February 29.

Trouble in the air

From Mr Fred Wachsberger

Sir, Dr John Powell's unfortunate experience of an overbooked flight (letter, February 29) is simply the result of the crazy system that all airlines use to sell tickets.

The cheapest fare is an Apex, booked ahead, with fixed flight times and no refund if you don't show up — just like a theatre or concert ticket. If the Apex fare is, say, £150, then a full economy fare, allowing you to change flights, change dates, or even not go at all is usually around £350. In effect the extra £200 paid is an insurance premium.

Since when does one get an insurance premium back if the event or incident insured against doesn't happen?

I travelled back from Chicago to Manchester in 1994 in economy class, and saw two people and 14 empty seats in the business class in front of me. I was told by the flight attendant that 12 passengers had not shown up. For that they would not have been penalised.

In my experience in the travel trade, *the "offending" non-passengers prob*ably booked on two other flights as well and would get a total refund: their booking agents lose their commission and remuneration for all the work they have put in and the airline loses revenue.

To compensate for the expected number of no-show passengers the airline will proportionately overbook, but if they do show up after all, then *innocent pasengers like Dr Powell* will be left behind at the airport. The system is truly crazy.

Yours sincerely,
FRED WACHSBERGER,
Howden Close Cottage,
Corbridge, Northumberland.
March 1.

From Mr A. J. Lucking

Sir, A 1993 report by the Association of European Airlines largely demolished the "selfish-businessman" justification for overbooking. It found that the major cause was speculative bookings by travel agents. Passengers accounted for only 30 per cent of the problems, with changes in itinerary more significant than duplicated bookings.

*The full-fare passengers are partic*ularly likely to be "bumped" because they can be transferred to other airlines without incurring extra costs.

Unfortunately, the airlines yield to commercial pressure, for example from major tour operators, and overrule the computer predictions.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. LUCKING,
20/17 Broad Court, WC2.
February 29.

Highland estates

From Mr A. G. Gordon

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Really, it's just a wee grouse", Scottish edition, *February 27) strongly defended* the work of many who run their estates with a view to the long-term good, the wellbeing of the folk who live there, and the benefit of the countryside itself.

It was particularly apt of him to cite *the late Duke of Atholl (obituary, Feb*ruary 28) whose stewardship of the Atholl estates was an example of how such lands can be managed in a modern world.

I must disagree however with the statement he cites that where predators are not shot "the grouse disappear". This is a complicated equation with many variables, the most important of which is heather moorland quality management.

Many Highland estates are indeed run in "a businesslike manner" and with regard to the environment. Grouse moors can be effectively managed without destroying our native raptors and a vital part of our national heritage.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. GORDON,
Balmenach,
Borrowfield, Cardross, Strathclyde.
February 28.

From the Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland

Sir, Your obituary of the Duke of Atholl mentioned that he had been a vice-president of the National Trust for Scotland, but not that he was president from 1994 until his untimely death.

In both of these positions and in the many other roles he gave devoted service to the trust, and his leadership, advice and wisdom will be sorely missed.

Yours faithfully,
HAMISH LESLIE MELVILLE,
Chairman,
The National Trust for Scotland,
5 Charlotte Square,
Edinburgh 2.
February 28.

Many thanks

From Mr P. R. Shortell

Sir, My most successful thank-you letter (letters, February 16, 20, 23, 24, 28, March 2) was also the least arduous.

I had received a book for Christmas which contained the Nigel Molesworth Self-Adjusting Thank You Letter. It began, if my memory serves: Dear aunt/uncle/penpal/stinker/clot. Thank-you for your present. I have played with it constantly/broken it already/got three more like it.

I typed up numerous carbon copies with suitably adapted wording, crossed out bits and sent them off. To my amazement, I received several replies — the only time I got thank-you letters for a thank-you letter.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SHORTELL,
51 Hales Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
March 3.

From Mrs Angela Willbourn

Sir, There is a cheaper alternative to Andrew Carnegie's method of extracting a letter from a reluctant correspondent (Mr Fred Mann's letter, March 2).

During the last war the mother of a friend of mine was in despair at never *hearing from him. She wrote to him* saying that if she didn't have a reply within the next week she would ask Sandy Powell on the forces' programme to play a tune for him with the message, "Please write home to your mother".

Many years later I employed the same device with one of my sons away at school — only substituting the Jimmy Young show. Reply came by return post.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA WILLBOURN,
Aston Cottage,
Aston, Nr Stevenage,
Hertfordshire.
March 2.

Times traveller in the realms of gold

From Mr James Bishop

Sir, In your admirable tribute to Thomas Massa Alsager ("Owed to *The Times* money man", February 28) there is one aspect of his service to your newspaper that deserves greater emphasis. I refer to his work in speeding up the process of getting the news to the paper.

In 1834 Alsager, who among his many other responsibilities ran the *communication department, intro*duced a system of exchanging both horses and carriages instead of only horses at the staging points, thus saving vital minutes in the process of getting reporters (who were trained to write their copy en route, whirling *along, as one of them described,* "at the rate of more than 13 miles an hour") back to the office.

Farther afield Alsager, working with the then manager William Delane (father of John), introduced many ingenious methods of outstripping the regular mail. These included the use of Admiralty steamers from Alexandria to Malta and Marseilles and the later introduction of a faster, competitive service, the employment of special couriers in many parts of the world as well as dromedaries in the Suez isthmus and pigeon post from Paris to Boulogne, and the chartering of ships and trains. These and other *systems of getting news to The Times* first greatly contributed to its early reputation, and notably to the success of Alsager's own City office.

There were, of course, huge costs involved, and it is doubtful whether Alsager and Delane revealed their true nature to the proprietor, John Walter II. This led to what you politely refer to as their "over-creative" accounting, *which involved showing a fictitious* profit by the devices of carrying forward the costs of newsprint into the following year and including the reserves set apart for contingencies in the current year.

The accounts for these years were apparently destroyed, for they no longer exist in your archives, and in these circumstances it is not surpris*ing that the proprietor called for the* resignation of both men.

Yours etc,
JAMES BISHOP,
11 Willow Road, NW3.
March 4.

From Miss Jill Bickerton

Sir, Thomas Massa Alsager was my *great-great-grandfather.*

The family always thought that because he and William Delane, joint managers of *The Times*, were getting on in 1846 — Alsager was 67 — the accusation that they were "over-creative with the accounts", even if justified, was an excuse to get rid of both of them. This came at a time of the anniversary of the death of Alsager's much *younger wife, mother of his 13 child*ren, the combination of which no doubt plunged him into deep depression.

We like to think that the deputy-coroner's statement that "there was not sufficient evidence before us" (as to the state of Alsager's mind) to bring in a formal verdict of suicide, was helped by the fact that he was well *liked and respected. As a result he was* subsequently given a Christian burial in Kensal Green cemetery at a time when, of course, no suicide could be given one.

Yours sincerely,
JILL BICKERTON,
2 Queensdale Walk, W11.
February 29.

Weather wisdom

From Professor B. J. Hoskins, FRS

Sir, We all enjoy a good snipe at the Met Office ("Met chief to pay for failings", report February 29, later editions). However, I do believe that, in the increasingly critical and ever more narrowly focused discussion — in reports issued first by the National Audit Office, then by the Public Accounts Committee and later by the media — sight is being lost of the crucial point: we have arguably the best national meteorological service in the world.

Personally, I can only be pleased that the Met Office spends more time on understanding and predicting the weather than it does on designing artificial targets which both satisfy the bureaucrats and can easily be attained.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HOSKINS
(Head of Department
of Meteorology),
The University of Reading,
2 Earley Gate,
Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire.
March 1.

Moggie and Clyde?

From Mr Manthos Kallios

Sir, You report today that the manager and two staff of a DIY store in Wales were sacked for threatening a cat with an air gun.

How does one *threaten* a cat?

A boot up the backside may impress it but surely shouting "You are surrounded by armed storemen. Come out with your paws up" means nothing to a cat.

Yours faithfully,
MANTHOS KALLIOS,
Mollands, Hillwood Grove,
Hutton Mount, Shenfield, Essex.
March 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: His Excellency Mr Mwanyengela Ngali was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Kenya in London.

Mrs Ngali was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr J. R. Young (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Governor-General Designate of New Zealand was received in audience by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

Mrs Hardie Boys was also received by The Queen.

Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman of the Military Committee.

Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue was received by The Queen upon his retirement as Director of the Royal Collection and Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art when Her Majesty appointed him Surveyor Emeritus of The Queen's Works of Art and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Fellow, the Royal Society, this morning chaired a meeting of the Project Science Board of Patrons at Buckingham Palace and later attended a Luncheon at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, this evening attended a Dinner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 5: The Princess Royal today visited Kent and was received by the Countess Mountbatten of Burma (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Kent).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited HM Prison Canterbury, Longport, Canterbury.

The Princess Royal, Patron, this afternoon visited the Home Farm Trust house at 147 Cheriton Road, Folkestone.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, later visited Sense shops at 126 High Street, Margate, and 54 Queen Street, Ramsgate.

The Princess Royal, President, REDR — Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, this evening attended a Working Dinner at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 5: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Derbyshire and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

In the morning His Royal Highness visited the University of Derby and opened Princess Alice Court, Bridge Street, and subsequently laid the foundation stone for the Learning Centre, Kedleston Road, Derby.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester opened the refurbished buildings at the Pingle School, Swadlincote.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (Cot Death Research and Support), was present this morning at the judging of the 1996 Christmas Card Competition at 14 Halkin Street, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited T R Fasteners, Trifast House, Bellbrook Park, Uckfield, East Sussex, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex (Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited SEOS Displays Limited, Marchants Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major-General Sir Philip Ward).

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon opened the new Children's Intensive Care Unit, Evelina Children's Hospital, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas Street, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
March 5: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a Reception and Dinner to mark the Golden Jubilee of MIND (National Association for Mental Health) at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Latest wills

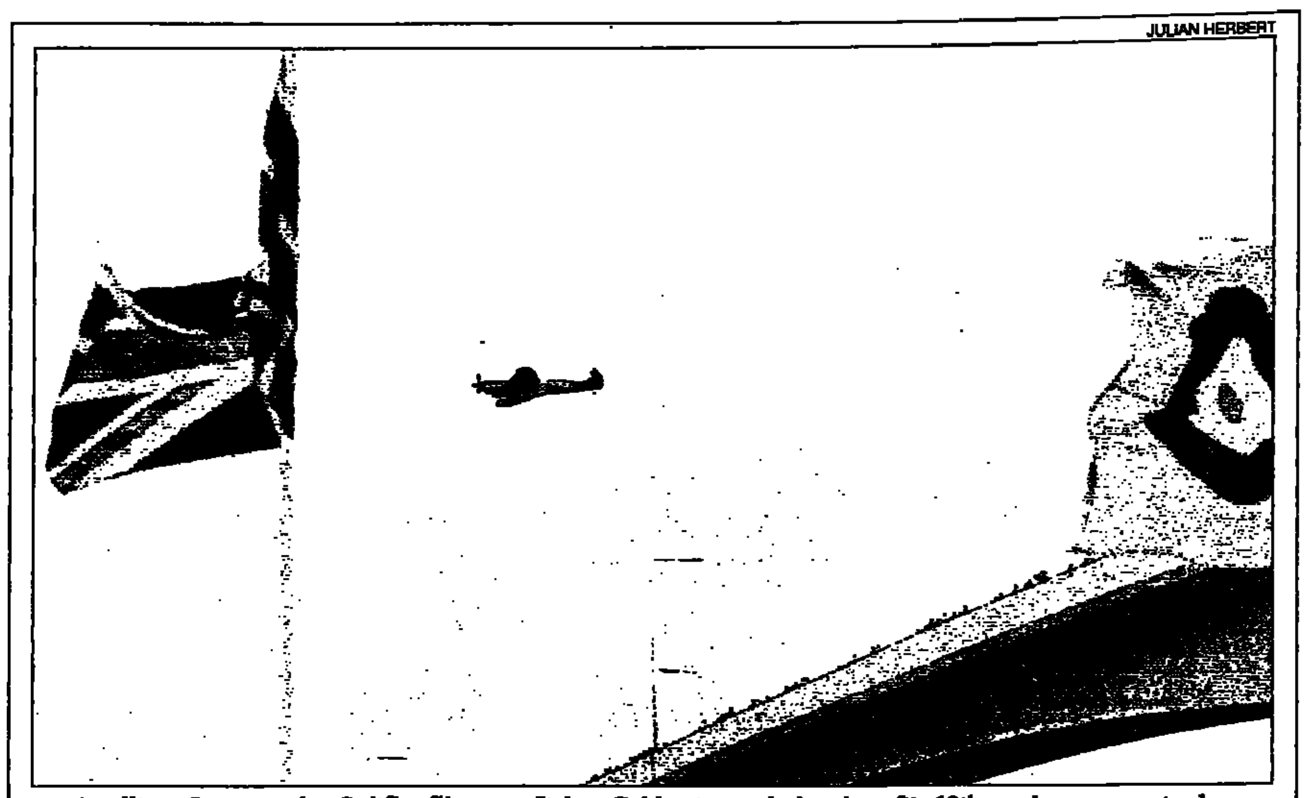
Mrs Lynne Denise **Ives**, of Northend Common, Henley, Oxfordshire — Marti **Caine**, the comedian, actress and singer — left estate valued at £410,984 net. She left her estate mostly to her husband and two sons.

The Hon Ursula Constance **Wyndham** of Petworth, West Sussex, the journalist and writer, a columnist in the *Oldie* magazine where she contributed to the "Chattering Classes" feature and later became an Agony Aunt, left estate valued at £894,387 net.

Lady Anne Elizabeth **Rasch**, of Middle Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, the gardener, who recreated the gardens at Heale House which won the first annual Historic Houses Association Garden of the Year Award in 1984, left estate valued at £1,152,890 net.

Mr Jack Blackburne **Poynton**, of Winchester, Classics Master at Winchester College 1928-65, left estate valued at £222,635 net.

He left £500 to a personal legatee, £1,000 to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, £500 to Winchester College, £250 to Marwell Preservation Trust, £100 to Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team, and the residue equally between Winchester Cathedral and the RNLI.


JULIAN HERBERT

A solitary Supermarine Spitfire flies over Itchen Bridge to mark the aircraft's 60th anniversary yesterday

Spitfire salutes diamond jubilee

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ITS VERY name is said to have struck terror into the heart of the enemy. Its superior performance helped to win the Battle of Britain. Yesterday the Supermarine Spitfire, a fighter aircraft engraved on the national memory like no other, was 60 years old.

Hundreds of spectators, many of them not even born at the aircraft's finest hour, lined the Itchen Bridge in Southampton to watch a privately-owned survivor of the thoroughbred breed fly overhead in commemoration of the maiden flight of Spitfire prototype K5054, which took to the skies from its Southampton birthplace, at what is now the civil airport at Eastleigh, for the first time on March 5, 1936.

At a service in the city to honour those who designed, built and flew the Spitfire, a plaque was unveiled in memory of those aircraft workers killed and injured during two Luftwaffe bombing raids on the Southampton factory in September 1940. Charles Jupe, a former toolroom machinist now aged 80, recalled how the raids had badly damaged the factory, but the workforce had production back to normal within three weeks.

The Spitfire, designed by R. J. Mitchell, was a state-of-the-art machine, an all-metal monocoque construction designed as the smallest possible vehicle for a pilot, his armaments and a Rolls-Royce Merlin engine. It won its spurs in the hot summer skies of 1940 by its sheer agility, pitted against the Messerschmitt Me109 in one of the crucial early battles of the war. The preserved survivor which performed a victory roll over the original factory site yesterday stirred memories in the elderly which were chiefly the memories of sound. The deep baritone growl of the Merlin piston engine was a comfort to those who heard it in wartime.

During yesterday's service the congregation held a moment's silence in memory of Jeffrey Quill, one of the Spitfire's early test pilots, who said of his first meeting with K5054: "Here, I thought to myself, is a real lady."

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 84; Sir Peter Barclay, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 70; Miss Jean Boht, actress, 60; Mr William Davis, author, broadcaster and former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 63; Mr Don Dixon, MP, 67; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 85; Mr David Gilmour, musician and singer, 50; Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, Argyll Group, 59; Professor David Hendry, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 52; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 73; Mr Lorin Maazel, conductor, 66; Sir Hal Miller, former MP, 67; Mr Malcolm Moss, MP, 53; Mme Valentina Nikolayeva-Tereshkova, first woman in space, 59; Mr Richard Noble, world landspeed record holder, 50; Dr J.H.P. Pafford, librarian, 96; Sir Ian Dixon Scott, diplomat, 87; the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, 67; Professor Marilyn Strathern, social anthropologist, 55; Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, opera singer, 52; Mr P.C.R. Wates, chairman, Wates City of London Properties, 58; Mr D.H. Whitaker, publisher, 65; Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, 55; Sir Oliver Wright, diplomat, 75.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the closing ceremony of the British Links with Argentina through Patagonia exhibition at the residence of the Argentine Ambassador, 49 Belgrave Square, SW1, at 11.45.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, will visit the hospital at Queen Square, WC1, at 11.15.

The Princess Royal, Patron, British Nutrition Foundation, will attend a conference entitled Nutrition for Health for Older People at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Dove House Street, SW1, at 10.30; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will open new premises for the Chessington and Hook Bureau at Library Court, Elm Road, Chessington, at 2.25; as President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Erimia, 119 Green Lane, Morden, Surrey, at 4.00; and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a private appeal dinner at Buckingham Palace at 7.50.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend a service of thanksgiving for the restoration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Sheep Street, Northampton, at 11.00; and will visit Wellingborough School, at 12.45 to mark the school's 400th anniversary.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit St Christopher's Fellowship at Howard House, 30 Belsize Avenue, NW3, at 3.30.

Hugh Armstrong Clegg

A Memorial Meeting for Hugh Armstrong Clegg will be held at 11.00am on Saturday, March 16, 1996, in the Hall, Nuffield College, Oxford. Those attending are asked to inform the Warden's Secretary, tel 01865 278520.

Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Jonkheer John Hugo Loudon, KBE, will be held on March 27, 1996, in the Grosvenor Chapel, 24 South Audley Street, London, W1, at noon.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Caprese, Tuscany, 1475; Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, dramatist, Paris, 1619; Sir Charles Napier, admiral, Falkirk, 1786; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Francis Beaumont, dramatist, London, 1616; Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1900; John Redmond, Irish nationalist, London, 1918; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Martin Niemöller, anti-Nazi priest, Wiesbaden, 1984.

The Battle of the Alamo ended, 1836.

Aspirin was patented by Felix Hoffman, 1899.

Daylight raids on Berlin began from American bases in Britain, 1944.

The *Herald of Free Enterprise* ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of almost 200 lives, 1987.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Bissell
and Miss J. Miller
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs G.C. Bissell, of Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, and Jennie, daughter of Mr M. Miller and Mrs J. Hunt.

Mr A.E. Cripps
and Miss K. Hallam
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr Brian Cripps, of Richmond, Surrey, and Mrs Jean Harvey, of Broadstone, Dorset, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr John Hallam, of Chelsea, and Mrs Vicki Hallam, of Stockwell, London.

Mr H.J. Cubitt
and Miss O.V. Longfield
The engagement is announced between Hugo, youngest son of the late Mr Robin Cubitt and of Mrs John Wauchope, of Newmarket, Suffolk, and Onnalee, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Longfield, of Weston Patrick, Hampshire.

Mr J.M.C. Ely
and Miss J.M.L. Dring
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Ely, of Oxford, and Jacquetta, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.J. Dring, of Bedford.

Mr M.C. Hall Taylor
and Miss C.A.M. Cousins
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Dr and Mrs Nicholas Hall Taylor, of Cranbrook, Kent, and Clare, daughter of Air Marshal and Mrs David Cousins, of Cleeve Hill, Cheltenham.

Mr J.C. Hughes
and Miss K.L. Saville
The engagement is announced between Jonathon, son of Dr and Mrs William Hughes, of Norwich, and Kristy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charlie Saville, of Linton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr S.D. Hughes
and Miss P.K. Vessey
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Hughes, of Epsom, and Philippa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Vessey, of Eton.

Mr N.B. Lewis
and Miss J.S. White
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Berwyn, younger son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Berwyn Lewis, of Steventon, Hampshire, and Jennifer Sara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John White, of Broomfield, Somerset.

Mr D.G.Y. Stanger
and Miss G. Hill
The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs Robin Stanger, of Locks Heath, Southampton, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Hill, of North Stoke, near Bath.

Lieutenant Commander R.P. Talbot, RN,
and Miss E.K. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of the late Mr Clive Talbot and of Mrs Pamela Talbot, of Seaford, East Sussex, and Emma, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Harrison, of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr E.J.E. Vorfeld
and Miss E.C. Brooke Turner
The engagement is announced between Egon, elder son of the late Mr Marold Vorfeld and of Mrs Vorfeld, of Meerle, Belgium, and Clarissa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Brooke Turner, of Dormansland, Surrey.

Mr D.M. Wiggin
and Miss S.C. Hooper
The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of the late Major Sir John Wiggin, Bt, and Sarah, Lady Wiggin, of Warwickshire, and Simone, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Hooper, of Cornwall.

Mr A.G. Wildblood
and Miss R. Miller
The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Mr and Mrs W.S. Wildblood, of Calne, Wiltshire, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr Paul Miller, of Muswell Hill, London, and Mrs Ingrid Miller, of Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Memorial meeting

Mr David Land
The Mayor of Brighton was present at a celebration for the life of Mr David Land, agent, producer and theatre owner, held yesterday at the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

Among those taking part were: Dame Vera Lynn, Sir Tim Rice, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Mr Kelia Asari, Miss Lucy Bateman, Mr Stanley Black Professor Gordon Conway, Mr Michael Coveney, the Dagenham Girl Pipers, Mr Frank Dunlop, Miss Sarah Esdalle, Mr Freddie Gershon, Mr Bill Kenwright, Mr Gary Martin, Mr Harry M. Miller, Mr Roger Nell, Mr Paul Nicholas, Mr Hal Prince, Mr Michael Reed, Mr Lionel Rosenfeld and members of the Shabbaton Choir, Miss Anne Skates and Capital Voices, Mr Robert Stigwood, Mr Jack Tinker, Mr David Thacker, Miss Marti Webb, Mr Colm Wilkinson, Mr Hugh Wooldridge, many members of the family and friends.

Dinner

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Lady French, Chairman of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr John McCready, deputy director, received the guests at the annual Law Faculty dinner held last night at Mecklenburgh Square.

Council of Legal Education

Bar Vocational Course 1995-96 early re-sits

Pass List

(In alphabetical order):

Competent

(I) Austin, C B; (G) Bajwa, A N; (L) Boase, C N; (I) Bowyer, J E; (M) Browne, M B; (I) Canepa, J S; (M) Chapple, D M; (L) Clark, S C; (G) Colombo, K J; (L) Ditchburn, M J; (G) Evans, C W; (I) Evans, G; (L) Farazi, S; (G) Foley, B J; (G) Fullwood, A G; (G) Howard, T J; (L) Hussain, A; (L) John, S P; (M) Khubchand-Daswani, K K; (L) Maddocks, M A; (L) Magee, R; (I) McDonagh, R L; (L) Meadows, I J; (G) Milner, N E; (L) Monah, H A; (L) Motts, K; (I) Mukherjee, T K; (L) Mulgrew, M J; (L) Newcombe, R W; (L) Pakrooh, R; (I) Penn, J P; (G) Roy, S A; (M) Sandiford-Austin, A J; (G) Sharma, R D; (G) Skilbeck, R H; (I) Skyes, R R; (I) Turton, R E; (G) Vaughan-Brown, J N; (G) Warhurst, K; (I) Wiles, R J; (L) Williams, R A; (G) Williams, W G; (I) Woods, A

Conversion course candidates

Competent

(G) Ali, R A; (G) Dookhy, R A; (I) Rushton, M

Luncheon

Toynbee Hall
Sir Robin Day was guest speaker at a luncheon held yesterday at Toynbee Hall.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Jesus said: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says, "Streams of living water shall flow from within him." John 7 : 37, 38 (REB)

BIRTHS

BEARE - On February 20th, to Deborah (née Hurdle) and Simon, a son, Matthew William Venton.

BILLSON - On 20th February, to Karen and Richard, a son, George Alfred Thomas, a brother for Henry.

BISS - See Casson.

BRIGGS - To Barnaby and Alice, on March 3rd, a daughter, Maisie Katherine, a sister for Luke.

BURGE - On February 29th 1996, in Sydney, to Nicola (née Foster) and Chris, a daughter, Charlotte Marie, a sister for Tom.

CAMERON - Clarissa Helena at The Portland Hospital on February 26th to Amanda and Niall, a sister for Arabella.

CASSON - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Charlotte (née Biss) and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Georgia Claire Aoife, a sister for Leor and Freddie.

GIDDINS - On 1st March 1996, to Joanna (née Neill) and Alan, a son, Angus John Bence, a brother for Jamie.

GLAISTER - On 1st March, to Melita and Stephen, a son, Albert Constantine.

LONGFIELD - On March 1st, to Roz (Pulvertaft) and James, a daughter, Matilda Sarah Graham.

NEW - Born March 1st, 1996 at The Portland Hospital Phillip Michael New to Christina L. Ruiz and Albert E. New, welcome to the world son.

OZAWA - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital to Akemi Ozawa and Keiji a lovely daughter Elina, a sister for Ryohei. Sukusuku Sodate.

PAICE - On 16th February 1996, to Edward and Julie (née Williams), a son, Benjamin Edward Thornton.

PATRICK - On February 25th 1996, to Karen and David, a son, James William.

PATTERSON - To Floyd and Bryanna (née Barwick) on 20th February 1996, a wonderful son, Michael Floyd Peter.

ROSE - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Jayne (née Tottman) and Adrian, a second son, Timothy David Albert, a gorgeous brother for Harry.

SCOPELLITE - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital a beautiful daughter, Melanie Marie to Patricia and Steve.

TIDMARSH - On February 21st, to Lorna (née Johnson) and Christopher, a son, Edward George Francis (Ned).

BIRTHS

VAN GRUTTEN - On 3rd March, to Fiona (née Birkett) and Philip, a son, Charles John Winchcombe.

WHEELER - On February 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Dale Simpson and Scott Wheeler, the most beautiful son, Angus Stephen.

WILSON-BARNES - On March 3rd at Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey, to Frances (née Wilson) and Brian, a daughter, India Jane, a sister to Saskia and Yolanda.

ZEAL - On March 1st, to Lucy and Christopher, a son.

DEATHS

ATKINS - Michael Anthony (Tatty) on 2nd March 1996, after a short illness, darling husband of Janet and father of Juliet and Rosie. Funeral Service to be held at St Peter's Church, Claybrooke Parva, Leicestershire, Monday March 11th at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if wished to: LOROS. Enquiries and donations c/o Wilf Smith & Son F.D., Mill Road, Ullesthorpe, Leicester, LE17 5DE, tel: (01455) 209236.

BARKER - Leonard (Lucky). Peacefully on Monday 26th February 1996 aged 81 years. Beloved husband of Vera, loving father of Bobbie and husband Eddie, loving grandfather of Angie and Sharon, and great-grandfather of Jake. Greatly missed and loved by us all.

BASSETT - Gilbert Norman on March 2nd aged 90 in hospital. Greatly loved by family and friends. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at 11.30 am Saturday March 9th at Rudgwick Parish Church. No flowers please but donations for Rudgwick Parish Church would be welcome c/o Freeman Brothers, 9 North Parade, Horsham.

BERGER - Evelyn. Our darling mother, sister and grandmother passed peacefully away on 25th February after a long illness. She will remain in our hearts forever. Ronnie, Penny, Merton, Nicolas, Robert, Damion, Charles and Katya.

BLEST - Elisabeth Mary aged 70. Peacefully after a long illness fought with immense courage. Much loved wife of John, mother of Peter and Anthony, grandmother of Anna, Harriet, Lucy, Julia, Thomas and Henry. The funeral service will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury on Tuesday March 12th at 11.30. Flowers or donations to the Heart of Kent Hospice, c/o Abbey Funeral Services, Tonbridge.

DEATHS

CARVER - On March 4th 1996, in hospital, Patrick John aged 28, very beloved son of Jean Carver and of Roland Carver. Much loved brother of Andrew and Sue, and brother-in-law to Roger and loving uncle to James and Joanna. A celebration of Patrick's life will be held at Christchurch, Christchurch Park, Sutton, Surrey on Tuesday March 12th at 11.30am afterwards at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. No flowers by request, but donations, if desired to Save the Children Fund, c/o W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd., 118 Carshalton Road, Sutton, SM1 4RL.

COLEMAN - On 27th February 1996 Jayne Elizabeth, aged 38 years, tragically and unexpectedly died whilst in France. Adored wife of Peter, devoted mother of Rachel and Helen, beloved daughter of Christina Prattis and sister of John and David. Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Friday 8th March 1996 at 11.45 am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Iver, Bucks at 1 pm. Flowers and enquiries to A.B. Walker and Son Limited, Ellen Lodge, 157 Binfield Road, Bracknell, Berkshire, telephone: (01344) 303707.

DAFFARN - Gwendolen Annie (née Watts), on March 1st aged 91. Peacefully after a short illness, much loved wife of the late Dennis, mother and grandmother. Funeral Service to be held at St Michael's Church, St Michaels, Tenterden, Kent on Friday March 8th at 11.30am, followed by committal at Tenterden Cemetery. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The British Red Cross Society c/o T.W. Fuggle & Son, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6QU.

EMMET - Hon. Christopher A.R. of Seabeach House, Halnaker, Chichester, on 3rd March 1996 aged 70 years, peacefully after a long illness. Fortified by the Rites of the Church. Much loved husband of Miranda, father of Teresa, Catriona, Rowena and Robert and grandfather of nine. Funeral Service at the Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, on Monday 11th March at 2 pm. Family flowers only by request but donations if desired to The Sussex Snowdrop Trust, Child Respite Care, c/o F.A. Holland & Son, 3 Jubilee Road, Chichester. tel: (01243) 782965.

DEATHS

EVANS - Edward Somers Fleming peacefully in his sleep at home in Dial House, Whitbourne, on March 1st. Funeral family only. Thanksgiving Service Whitbourne Church 2 pm Saturday April 13th and afterwards at Whitbourne Hall.

FREEMAN - Nicholas John. Passed away after a brave struggle against illness on March 3rd aged 45 years. Sadly missed by his wife Diane, daughter Natasha and his parents, family and friends. Funeral Service and committal will take place at St Pauls U.R. Church, Harrogate on Friday March 8th at 2 pm. Flowers may be sent to Wm Dodgson and Son, Lupton Avenue, Leeds LS9 6EQ or donations if desired may be given to Cancer Research, 39 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LQ.

GORDON DUFF - Sheila Beatrice on 4th March. Funeral at The Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Ennismore Gardens, London SW7 on Wednesday March 13th at 11.30am - 12.15pm, followed by cremation at West London. None Orthodox friends most welcome and to refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after the service. Flowers not remotely necessary, but the Cathedral can always do with donations.

GREEN - Winifred Mary. Peacefully on March 1st in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Loving Sister, Aunt and Great-Aunt. The coffin will be received into St Margarets Church on Thursday March 14th at 4.45 pm. Funeral Service Friday March 15th 2 pm followed by a private cremation. No flowers at her request but donations to Christian Aid c/o Reeves & Pain, 288, Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4TE.

HILL - Suddenly at her home on March 4th aged 86 years, Nancy Midgeley of Brent Knoll, Somerset. A dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll, Friday March 8th at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for St Michael's Church to Messrs P.J. Harris Funeral Directors, 2 Cross Street, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, TA8 1BN. tel: (01278) 782886.

DEATHS

HYDEN - John Sydney, tragically, on 26th February 1996, whilst in St Petersburg, Russia, beloved husband and soul mate of Pat and loving stepfather of Keith, Graeme and Heather. A service will be held in the Main Chapel at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Friday 8th March at 12 noon to which all friends are invited. No flowers please but donations if so desired may be sent to The Moscow Leonard Cheshire Home c/o A & WM Urquhart Solicitors, 16 Heriot Row, Edinburgh EH3 6HR. 'Although today you are far away, you'll be forever in my heart'.

KELLETT - John Harold peacefully at home, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxford, on March 5th 1996. Dearly loved and loving husband of Dot and dear brother, uncle, stepfather, grandfather and friend. The cremation service will be private with no flowers. If wished donations in memory of Harold may be sent either to The Surgery Milton-under-Wychwood or The Red Cross Society c/o Mrs Edginton, Frogmore House, Frog Lane, Milton-under-Wychwood. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Mary's Church Shipton-under-Wychwood at 2.30 pm on March 28th, to which all friends will be welcome.

PARE - On March 2nd, peacefully after a long illness, F.D.E. (David) Pare, aged 84 years, recently of Winchester. Husband of the late Phyllis, loving Father of Vivian and Richard and Grandfather to Alexander, William, Emily, Arabella and Rosamonde. Service in Winchester Cathedral on Wednesday 13th March at 11.15 am. Donations, if desired, to Parkinsons Disease Society c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester. (01962 844044).

PERKINS - Margaret peacefully in Durham on March 5th aged 91 years, much loved mother of Andrew and grandmother of Sarah and Charlotte. Service Sherburn Hospital Church Friday 8th March.

RIMINGTON - John William M.B.E. On Saturday 2nd March peacefully at Eastbourne, aged 87. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Former Director Scottish Coal Board. Funeral Service at St Marys Church, Old Town, Eastbourne on Monday 18th March at 12 noon, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, but any donations to R.S.P.C.C. or Cancer Research Fund, may be sent to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne, Sussex.

DEATHS

ROLO - On March 3rd, Rosemary Anne of Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, beloved wife of the late Paul Rolo and a dear mother of Hugh and Jane. Service at St John the Baptist Church, Barlaston, on Friday March 8th at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations preferred for Barlaston Health Centre. Donations and enquiries to Price and Stubbs Funeral Services, Mill Street, Stone, Staffs., tel: (01785) 812556.

RUSSELL - Martin Guthrie MA CBE., died 3rd March aged 81. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey, Monday 11th March 2 pm. Flowers or donations to British Diabetic Association c/o W.A Truelove, 31 High Street, Cheam, Surrey.

SCOTT - David, of the Isle of Mull. Peacefully on Tuesday 5th March 1996 at Ossians Retirement Home, Connel. Beloved husband of Hester and dear father and grandfather. Funeral at St Columba's Gruline, Mull, at 12.30 pm on Thursday 7th March.

SEIGAL - Harry Charles on March 5th 1996. Funeral 3pm today at Western Cemetery, Cheshunt. Prayers 8 pm tonight at home.

SHERIDAN - Marjory Frances on 4th March of Birchheath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton, Chester, passed peacefully away in her sleep aged 96 after a short illness in hospital.

SMITH - John Howard (late Major). On 2nd March peacefully in Cheltenham aged 82. Beloved husband of the late Joyce, much loved father of John and Judy and grandfather of John, Benjamin, James, Elizabeth, Guy, Thomas and Katie. Funeral Service at St Luke's, Cheltenham at 2.15 pm on Monday 11th. Flowers and donations (to the Army Benevolent Fund) to Selim Smith (01242 525393). We shall not see his like again.

SPENCE - On March 2nd 1996 in hospital in Oldham, Robert Walton Spence, husband of the late Gwen, father of Julia and Ursilla. Enquiries G. Barlow & Sons Ltd. tel: (0161) 624-4301.

SYMES - Deane, on Saturday 2nd March 1996, beloved husband of Pam and father of Danny and Marty (Sam). Funeral Service at St James the Less Church, Pangbourne on Monday 11th March at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations to 'R.N.L.I.' would be welcome and sent to A.B. Walker and Son Limited, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL.

DEATHS

WATKINSON - Margaret (née Leith) 1917-1996, died peacefully in Edinburgh on March 1st. Funeral at Easingwold Methodist Church, Saturday 9th March, 12.30 pm. No flowers please, but any donations to Methodist Relief Fund.

WEBSTER-TRUSSELL - Sadie suddenly on 22nd February 1996, devoted widow of Dennis, adored mother of Michael and Anna. Immensely loved mother-in-law of Christ and grandchildren Freddie and Harry. Cremation at 2 pm on Thursday 7th March at Glyn Valley Crematorium, Bodmin. Enquiries and flowers c/o R.J. Bray Funeral Directors, Bridge End, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6BX. tel: (01208) 812626.

WELLESLEY-DAVIES - On March 1st 1996, peacefully at Ipswich Hospital, Eric, father of Peter and Philip and a much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Enquiries to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings tel: (01473) 272711.

WHISTON - Noel Douglas aged 79. Peacefully at home on March 4th. Much loved by wife Margaret and children Louise and Andrew. Funeral March 11th 3.45 pm at Garston Crematorium, High Elms Lane, Garston, Watford. No flowers, but donations to Peace Hospice, Cassiobury Drive, Watford, Herts.

WOOLLEY - Rodney Kenneth, on 3rd March in hospital aged 41 years, beloved son of Ruby and Ken. Dear friend to Harry, John and William. Funeral at Southampton Crematorium, 8th March at 12 noon. If desired donations to the Sanctuary 11-13 Branksome Park Road, Bournemouth.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

EPILEPSY BEREAVED? is to hold a memorial service at St James's Church Piccadilly London on Saturday 9th March at 11 am for all who have died suddenly from epilepsy. A reception to launch the charity Epilepsy Bereaved? will follow the service. For more details phone 0171 736 0125.

WATERHOUSE - A Memorial Service for Paul Alexander Waterhouse will be held at The Church of St Peter and St Paul Yattendon, Berkshire, at 2.30 pm on Saturday 23rd March.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GLENDEVON - There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord Glendevon on Tuesday March 26th at 12 noon in the Guards Chapel. Please apply to the Regimental Headquarters, Scots Guards. (0171) 414-3334.

LAW - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Diana Law MBE Hon FRCSLT, Founder President of Action for Dysphasic Adults, will be held at All Souls, Langham Place, London W1 on Friday, 22nd March 1996 at noon. Those wishing to attend are requested to advise Action for Dysphasic Adults (0171-261 9572).

LOCKHART - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Brian Joseph Lockhart Lieutenant Colonel, retired, of the Blues and Royals, will be held at the Parish Church of St Edward, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire on Monday 15th April 1996 at 2.30 pm. Donations in his memory would be gratefully received for The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o W.J. Wright, Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 1DG.

WILLIAMS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dr. Joyce Beverley Williams MBE MB JP (née Jewson), will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13th April 1996 in St John's Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead, NW3. Enquiries:- (0181) 440 1063.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BARNARD - In loving memory of Mary Ianthea who died 6th March 1992, and of our 2 children Julia Anthea Marietjie and Pieter Johannes. Emil.

BROWN - W.D. (OBE). Always remembered, always missed.

FULLER - In loving memory of Jill Elizabeth who died 31st December 1992 on this her birthday. Emil. 'Press lightly on her Sweet Earth for she stepped lightly on Thee.' Virgil.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

H.M. LAND REGISTRY
Lost certificates

It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Gloucester District Land Registry of Twyver House, Bruton Way, Gloucester GL1 1DQ.

Charge Certificate Freehold Title Numbers ON2198 and ON7647 - Land on the North West side of London Road, and Headington Sports Ground, Headington, Oxford, both now part of Manor Ground, London Road, Headington, Oxford.

Proprietor of Charge: Energy Holdings Limited of 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR, also of Jardine House, 1 Wesley Street, St Helier, Jersey JE4 8UD.

SIR WILLIAM ELLIS TRUST FOR GUIDES OF SWISS NATIONALITY

The Trustees of the Sir William Ellis Trust for Guides of Swiss Nationality registered charity number 120989 hereby give notice that they have passed a resolution under Section 75 of the Charities Act 1993 for the following purpose.

Authorising the expenditure of the charity's capital as income.

Any interested person wishing to make representations regarding the said resolution may do so, quoting the registered reference at the foot of this notice, within a period of six weeks from the date of this notice, by writing to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales at the address below.

Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, St Albans House 57/60 Haymarket London SW1Y 4QX. Ref: LM /Charity No 120989/10025

WILSON nee Young - VERA WILSON nee YOUNG (Widow) LATE OF MIDDLESBROUGH, CLEVELAND DIED THERE on or about the 16th January 1996. (Estate approximately £17,000)

Kin of the above are requested to apply to

THOMAS WILKINSON, Solicitor of 423 Linthorpe Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6HJ.

BIRTHDAYS

AFFARA - Sama Lara is an old lady of 26! Many Happy Returns of the Day.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

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OBITUARIES

ANNA LARINA

Anna Larina, widow of the Bolshevik theorist Nikolai Bukharin, died on February 24 aged 82. She was born on January 27, 1914.

IN ONE of the most dogged individual campaigns ever to be conducted against the might of Soviet state persecution, Anna Larina in 1988 secured posthumous acquittal on charges of treachery for her husband Nikolai Bukharin, who had been done to death by Stalin fifty years earlier. Although she had spent more than twenty years in prison and exile herself as the wife of an "enemy of the people" she achieved complete vindication for Bukharin when, in February 1988, the Soviet Supreme Court dismissed all the charges that had been brought against him at his trial in 1938, and restored his membership of the Communist Party.

None of this, admittedly, could completely alter the historical view of Bukharin. He had been an ardent Bolshevik. Ignoring Lenin's warnings of what Stalin was capable of, he had, after the former's death, collaborated enthusiastically with the man who was subsequently to have him judicially murdered. His conduct during the trials of Kamenev and Zinoviev fell well short of the heroic.

Yet his posthumous acquittal exonerated him, at least, from the charge of treachery to the system he had so ardently championed (he had been accused of spying for the Germans). Above all, it was a testament to the shining courage of a woman who fought tirelessly for his reputation in those bleak years after Bukharin's execution when truth and decency seemed buried beyond hope of retrieval.

Anna Mikhailovna Larina lost her mother early in her life and she was brought up in the family of her uncle Yuri Larin. Her parents, ardent Marxists, had spent a number of years before the First World War in exile outside Russia, and she grew up quintessentially a daughter of the revolution. In the 1920s in Moscow the occupant of the apartment below that of the Larins was Nikolai Bukharin, a man already in his forties, famed as a Marxist theorist and one of the nascent Soviet Union's foremost intellectual propagandists. Even as a young girl Anna Larina's ardent nature responded to his flame-like ideological passion. One of her early memories was of his weeping uncontrollably over the body of Lenin as it lay in state in Red Square.

By the time she was 16 the pair were irrevocably in love. But the miasma of Stalin's paranoia had already begun to infect Bukharin's lustrous reputation. When Stalin had first moved against the Bolshevik Old Guard, Bukharin had been a ready enough auxiliary. But Stalin used the same tactics against him as he had against them. Bukharin's supporters throughout the Communist Party were deprived of their posts and their influence. Then he was personally assailed by Stalin, accused of having lost faith in the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. In August 1929 he was deprived of his membership of the Communist Party — an effective condemnation to political death. At that stage he signed a recantation of all the "crimes" of which he was supposedly guilty. But he was still to endure several years in the wilderness.

To his credit he was unwilling to involve the young woman he loved in the perils of his situation. But her own ardent nature would not be denied, and they were married in 1934. She bore him a son, Yuri, two years later. By the time of their marriage Bukharin had to some extent been allowed back into the fold, and was Editor of the government newspaper *Izvestia*.

At first, in tandem with Carl Radek his chief leader writer, his stewardship of the paper appeared to be exemplary, and Stalin's every policy received wholehearted support. But as time went on it began to be perceived in the Kremlin that *Izvestia* was not as uncritically enthusiastic about Stalin's Soviet Union as it might have been. When other papers were praising the Stakhanovite movement (which encouraged workers to find ways of increasing production), *Izvestia* was unaccountably silent on the subject. Other aspects of Soviet life were damned with faint praise. As Stalin became more extreme, *Izvestia* appeared dangerously moderate. Rumours began to spread that *Izvestia*'s editor was flirting with notions of restoring capitalism.

In 1937 both Bukharin and Radek were arrested. In spite of a defiant speech at his trial, Radek escaped with a sentence of ten years' imprisonment. Bukharin, arrested after Radek, was charged with spying for "Fascists", sentenced to death at the most famous of Stalin's show trials and shot in March 1938. Before his arrest, aware of what was impending, he had pleaded with his young wife to commit to memory for future generations a letter protesting his innocence — a protest far too dangerous to be committed to paper. Reciting it over and over again like a litany, Larina memorised her husband's last testament word for word. It was not until three years after Stalin's death that she dared to put it down on paper.

The years after 1938 were grim ones for Bukharin's widow. Her son was taken from her and raised in orphanages under another name. She was sent to internal exile in Astrakhan and then brought back to Moscow where she spent three years in an underground cell in the notorious Lubianka prison.

There, she was savagely interrogated by Beria, Stalin's sadistic chief of secret police. "If you want to survive then shut up about Bukharin!" he screamed at her before sending her into exile again, this time to a Siberian prison camp. There she sustained herself by reciting her husband's letter "like a prayer" every day.

Released from the gulag in 1945, she was kept in exile for another 14 years, only returning to Moscow in 1959. From that time forward she devoted her energies to clearing her husband's name. First, she appealed to Khrushchev, who ignored her letters. Similar pleas to Brezhnev fell, equally, on deaf ears. When Gorbachev became Soviet leader she sought a personal interview with him. She begged him in impassioned tones to seize a unique opportunity to restore truth to Soviet historiography and erase the stain on her husband's memory.

Gorbachev so far relented as to mention Bukharin's name in a speech commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, in 1987. Then, in the following year, the Soviet Supreme Court formally exonerated Bukharin and a number of other prominent victims of Stalin's terror from the crimes with which they had originally been charged. Finally, in April 1988, Bukharin's *Letter to a Future Generation of Party Leaders* was published in full. It was a complete posthumous vindication of the man Lenin had called "the Golden Boy of the Revolution".

After this victory Larina devoted the remainder of her life (with her son Yuri, with whom she had been reunited in 1956) to preserving Bukharin's memory. She is survived by her son and a daughter from her second marriage, to Fyodor Fadeyev, whom she had met and married in Siberia. He died in Moscow in 1959.

VEHBI KOÇ

Vehbi Koç, Turkish businessman, died in Antalya on February 25 aged 94. He was born in Ankara in 1901.

VEHBI KOÇ was Turkey's answer to Horatio Alger, a boy who left school to run a grocery store and who went on to become a permanent fixture in the *Fortune* 500. Although the conglomerate he founded is easily Turkey's largest company, with an annual turnover of $9.5 billion, it remains essentially a family firm.

The Koç name and Koç products are all pervasive in Turkey from refrigerators to the hamburger buns in a Turkish McDonald's. Turks drive Koç made cars to Koç owned supermarkets back to Koç built homes. They open tins of Koç tomatoes and stay in Koç owned hotels.

Vehbi Koç's own life mirrored the growing prosperity of the young Turkish Republic. He was born in Ankara, a town which at the turn of the century was no more than the last stop on the railway line into Central Anatolia. It suddenly had greatness bestowed upon it when Kemal Ataturk declared it the new capital of the Turkish Republic in 1923. Koç profited from the construction boom that followed. His first big deal was to provide a new roof for the parliamentary assembly.

Despite knowing no foreign languages, Koç travelled abroad to secure the agency for American and European companies. His career was to prove that Muslim Turks could take on the commercial roles performed in the Ottoman Empire by Christians and Jews although many of Koç's earliest and closest associates were members of Turkey's religious minorities.

After the Second World War, Koç went into partnership with General Electric to produce light bulbs. He went on to found Turkey's first white furniture industry in 1955. The first Turkish car was a fibreglass-bodied contraption called the Anadol which Koç produced in partnership with Ford and Reliant. A subsequent partnership with

Fiat now holds the lion's share of the Turkish car market. Koç was awarded the International Chamber of Commerce award in 1987. By then he had handed over the day-to-day running of the company to his son Rahmi.

The group's industrial might bought its share of political influence. Few doubt its ability to shape legislation, sometimes even governments. What was good for Koç Enterprises was probably good for Turkey — at least up to a point. Koç pioneered an industrial revolution in Turkey, but he did so behind protective tariffs. Part of the cost of Turkey's development was borne by the Turkish consumer. Sometimes they suspected they were not always getting their money's worth.

It was no coincidence that the Koç group remained the most powerful lobby to question the customs union agreed with the EU last year, a move that liberalised European exports into Turkey. European embassies began to believe the Turkish side was serious about seeing the treaty through when they heard that the Koç group had dropped its objections.

It is a sign of Koç's own personality that the public's suspicion about big business never translated into criticism of himself. He embodied Turkey's sympathetic synthesis of East and West — a devout Muslim who kept the Ramadan fast but was equally religious in his devotion to a double whisky. Despite his vast wealth, he was immune to ostentation, although his reputation for being tight-fisted may have been deliberately cultivated to discourage those with a mendicant tendency.

Certainly he was generous in his endowments, particularly to education. A fine museum in Istanbul bears the name of his deceased wife, Sadberk. But even his charities had a touch of business acumen. The Turkish Educational Foundation, which provided university scholarships, made use of the society fashion of sending elaborate wreaths of flowers on every conceivable occasion. Why not, Koç suggested, send a donation instead and have the donor's name put on a re-usable plastic wreath?

Vehbi Koç's wife died in 1973 and he is survived by a son and three daughters.

PETER SAMUELSON

Peter Samuelson, painter and diarist, died on February 12 aged 83. He was born on June 29, 1912.

PETER SAMUELSON'S devotion to painting was long and complete. His career as a painter, on the other hand, was intermittent. Quite how this came about he was hard put to explain. It clearly had something to do with his restless and wandering spirit, which was encouraged by an international background and led to his spending long years of his early life abroad.

Also, he prided himself on being almost entirely self-taught. He claimed that during a brief period at the New York School of Fine and Applied Arts in Paris, where he was sent by an uncle in hopes that he might make a good living, he learnt "nothing but mounting technique and snobbery". And certainly he did all he could to avoid the organised art world of the academies and the dealers.

For all that, and his burying himself in the Oxfordshire countryside in later life, he was always extremely social, provided the socialising was with people who excited his interest. In particular, he enjoyed the company of young people, and could infallibly charm them and coax them into learning. He would have made an inspired teacher if he could ever have settled to the disciplines of a teacher's life. But, as it was, he probably conveyed more to his young listeners than he might ever have done within a more conventional framework.

If he did indeed learn snobbery at art school he very rapidly unlearnt it. He was entirely at ease with the young working men and women who gathered round the lodging house he ran for some years in west London, and who figure so largely in his paintings of the 1950s, included in his book *Post-War Friends* (1987). Looking at them, one sometimes has the impression of seeing the world of Colin MacInnes embodied in images: curiously enough, Samuelson served in the same unit as MacInnes during the war, though he knew him not as a writer but simply as "Sergeant Mack".

Samuelson's primary artistic interest in painting people went right back to the beginnings of his art. He spent most of his childhood on a fruit farm in Kent, his brief brush with boarding school proving a disaster for all concerned. When he was 15 he was sent to live with relatives in the South of France.

From there after two years he made his way to Paris, and while following his uncle's plans for him by some desultory study at the New York School, he supported himself as an errand boy. But he still endlessly painted and drew, though very much in his own fashion, which at this time was somewhat influenced by the French Surrealists he was beginning to discover in the Paris galleries.

In 1935 he married a Dutch woman, Ina Van Blaaderen, a spectacular beauty. By her he eventually had two daughters and a son, and returned to live in England, in his childhood home. He dated his first really intensive period of painting from that time, though he was inclined to dismiss the work then produced as his "primitive period". It was, in fact, very capable, painted with an hallucinatory intensity which suggested the German painters of the *Neue Sachlichkeit* (New Objectivity), though quite probably he did not then know the movement's work.

During his war service, spent mainly on bomb disposal in Britain and on the Continent, Samuelson had little chance to paint, and after demobilisation he joined his wife in The Netherlands for two years, working as an illustrator, mostly of musical subjects — music was a lifelong passion for him — on local newspapers and magazines.

When his marriage broke up in 1947 he came back to England, helping his stepmother to run a hotel in Torquay. He found that the life suited him, and after that arrangement came to an end he ran a lodging house in Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, for some years, quite forgotten by the art world. But he saw a lot of people, and was able to draw and paint them for his own pleasure.

Ina with Hat **by Peter Samuelson, 1949**

He could also continue to work in earnest on his other life-work, an enormous, Proustian autobiography-cum-diary. In later years he would divert his friends with readings from it, which combined the delicately and precisely atmospheric with the Rabelaisian — this latter especially when delineating the rather louche and raffish milieu which surrounded him in those postwar years. Samuelson always hoped that this unique document might be published, if only after his death.

In the 1960s he found a new interest, in oriental rugs, and soon became an expert. Also, under the tuition of Raymond Bernadout, he developed into a highly skilled restorer, an activity which came to occupy so much of his time that he stopped painting altogether in 1965. In 1982 he moved from London to an Oxfordshire village, where he could live with his daughter Bridget and devote himself to his rugs, earning extra money, when required, by doing manual work on a local farm. But at this point he was unexpectedly rediscovered by the art world, had several very successful shows in London, and the creative juices started flowing again. Indeed, his last years were among the most artistically productive of his life, with a series of richly coloured portraits crowning his earlier work with a sunset splendour.

He is survived by a son and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 6, 1956

The publication, 12 years after O'Neill's death, of perhaps his finest play, gave the drama critic the opportunity to discuss the suitability of autobiography as a dramatic theme.

"LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT"

From Our Dramatic Critic

The frankly autobiographical play is a rarity. Not only do playwrights seem to find it easier to make drama out of lives other than their own. They are also aware that the theatre has a peculiar way of insisting that the actual is not necessarily the true. It is jealous of its own truth. This is not a jealousy that would have ever troubled Eugene O'Neill. His impatience with stage restrictions was a recurrent fever. Realism, expressionism, impressionism, restlessly he tried all the styles, hopeful to the last that he would by some means or other bend the intolerable restrictions to his will and conquer for himself splendid new liberties. Coming in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Yale University Press, $3.75) to give play form to a painful chapter of his youth, he is nothing if not direct. He leaves the difficulties to argue for themselves. Not for him the oblique autobiographical approach. Not present but old sorrow forms the matter of O'Neill's autobiography. He was in his closing years before he could bring himself to "face his dead" and wrote about them "with deep pity and understanding and forgiveness for all the four haunted Tyrones". The Tyrones were his drug-addicted mother, his close-fisted father, his drunken and degenerate elder brother and his tormented younger self. He sets down the facts about them with unsparing realism. Yet the truly pathetic thing about the play is that its interest is autobiographical rather than dramatic. It is less a revelation of character shown in the light of universal values than an apologia for the author's philosophy of life.

A study of the play suggests that the first two acts with their well-judged disclosures of fact would hold the stage well. The third act is beset with O'Neill's familiar weaknesses. It requires a kind of poetic exaltation. This the author attempts to supply by allowing his characters to quote from Baudelaire, Swinburne, and Dowson and by his favourite device of letting speech drift into drunken dithyrambs. But these expedients do not disguise the inadequacy of the language to meet the needs of the play. It strives to evoke remembered domestic misery without mitigation but with the fullness of understanding that time may bring, and falls short of its purpose for want of self-control and reserved pressure. This want was fated always to stand between O'Neill and the great play that he strove with endless energy and insufficient artistry to write.

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Private nuisance on river barge

Crown River Cruises Ltd v Kimbolton Fireworks Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Potter

[Judgment February 27]

Damage to a floating barge moored in a river was actionable as a private nuisance.

The Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division so held in an action by Crown River Cruises Ltd for damage caused to their vessels by Kimbolton Fireworks Ltd in negligence, nuisance and under the principle laid down in *Rylands v Fletcher* ((1868) LR 3 HL 330) and against the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority for negligent failure properly to extinguish a fire.

The relevant vessels were a permanently moored dumb barge, used as a mooring from which passenger vessels operated, and a passenger vessel. Both were in the River Thames close to the Battle of Britain firework display in 1990. They had not been required to move but had been warned of falling debris by the Port of London Authority.

A small fire, which was attended by the second defendants, began upon the dumb barge and it was common ground that it had been caused by hot and burning debris falling in the course of the display.

Later that evening the passenger vessel returned to moor alongside the barge as was usual. Several hours later fire broke out on that vessel and substantial damage was also caused to the barge.

Mr Timothy Brenton for the plaintiffs; Mr Sebastian Neville-Clark for Kimbolton Fireworks; Mr Nigel Wilkinson, QC and Ms Kerstin Boyd for the fire authority.

MR JUSTICE POTTER said that the first defendants, who had great experience of siting and organising grand firework displays, had taken the understandable but none the less foreseeable and unjustifiable risk of some damage occurring in the course of the display, relying on the attendance of the second defendants. They had taken no steps to inspect the contents of the vessels for flammable material and in the circumstances the first defendants had been negligent. His Lordship accepted expert evidence that the fire on board the passenger vessel was as a result of the second defendants' negligent failure properly to extinguish the original fire.

His Lordship went on to consider the claim in both public and private nuisance. The second defendants had submitted that since the essence of nuisance was a condition or activity which interfered with the use or enjoyment of land, it was not an action which lay in respect of damage to a floating barge and/or to any craft moored alongside it.

His Lordship accepted the plaintiffs' argument that the barge was permanently attached to a mooring on the bed of the river of which the plaintiffs had exclusive use and ocupation pusuant to a licence. Since the barge was itself in use as a mooring it was so attached for the purpose of the better use and enjoyment of the plaintiffs' mooring right and therefore sufficient to sustain an action for private nuisance.

A second point taken by the defendants was that the holding of a firework display for no more than 20 minutes did not in the circumstances amount to a nuisance.

In his Lordship's opinion, while not wanting to come to any decision which would inhibit the holding of displays upon the Thames on appropriate occasions, the holding of a firework display in a situation where it was inevitable that for 15 to 20 minutes debris would fall upon nearby property of a potentially flammable nature created a nuisance actionable at the suit of a property owner who suffered as a result.

Since his Lordship had already held that the plaintiff had a right to sue in private nuisance, a decision on the question of public nuisance would be left to an occasion when its resolution was directly necessary to establish the civil or criminal liability of the defendant concerned.

On the liability issue under *Rylands v Fletcher*, the plaintiff had sought to rely on those cases which had extended the rule to certain situations where the defendant had been held liable for an accumulation on land outside his own possession or control.

His Lordship said that given the extension of the strict application of the principle to cover accumulation brought upon the highway which caused injury to adjacent property owners, there were strong arguments to extend it to accumulations in or on a vessel in a navigable river.

Equally, with great respect for the dicta of Mr Justice Taylor in *Rigby v Chief Constable of Northamptonshire* ([1985] 1 WLR 1242), there was no good reason for limiting the liability to an accidental escape as opposed to an intentional release at least where the release was not deliberately aimed in the direction of the plaintiff or with the intention of impinging upon his propery.

However, in the light of current judicial and academic reserve with appeared detectible towards extension of the principle beyond its present limits, his Lordship did not propose to ground the decision in a finding of liability under that head.

Allegations of volenti non fit injuria and/or contributory negligence were largely irrelevant to the course which events took. The complaint of the plaintiffs related to damage caused many hours later without any reason to suppose that there was any fire aboard the barge.

For those reasons both the first and second defendants were liable in damages to the plaintiff which would be apportioned at 25 per cent and 75 per cent respectively.

Solicitors: Shaw & Croft; Rayfields; Mr Stephen J. F. Starling.

Separate items in containers

Owners of cargo lately aboard the River Gurara v Nigerian National Shipping Line Ltd

Before Mr Justice Colman

[Judgment January 29]

Where a bill of lading listed a number of containers said to contain a specified number of separately packed items, in the event of loss, the carrier was not entitled to limit his liability under the Hague Rules by reference to the number of containers but to the number of separately packed items inside the containers.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Admiralty Court of the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment on a number of preliminary issues arising from an action by the owners of lost cargo aboard the River Gurara for damages against the Nigerian National Shipping Line, the carriers.

Article IV, rule 5 of the 1922 Hague Rules, scheduled to the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1924, provides: "Neither the carrier nor the ship shall in any event be or become liable for any loss or damage to or in connection with goods in an amount exceeding £100 per package or unit ... unless the nature and value of such goods have been declared by the shipper before shipment and inserted in the bill of lading. This declaration if embodied in the bill of lading shall be prima facie evidence, but shall not be binding or conclusive on the carrier...".

Mr Jeremy Russell, QC and Mr Robert Thomas for the cargo owners; Mr Jervis Kay and Mr Christopher Smith for the carriers.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said that the defendant's vessel suffered an engine breakdown while in the course of a laden voyage and was stranded off the Portuguese coast. Subsequently she broke up and sank with total loss of cargo.

Much of the cargo had been stowed in containers by the shippers before they were delivered to the defendants. The goods were shipped under the UK West Africa Line bills of lading. The form of those bills of lading meant that the carriage of goods was subject to legislation at the ports of shipment incorporating the 1922 Hague Rules.

The carriers raised as part of their defence their entitlement to limit their liability to "£100 per package or unit" under article IV, rule 5 of those rules. They asserted that although many of the bills of lading stated that a container was said to contain a given number of separate items, the container itself should be treated as the sole package for the purposes of the article.

The cargo owners contended, inter alia, that when the provision was first introduced into the rules in 1922 the average value of a cargo package was below £100. Given the extent to which £100 had depreciated in real terms since 1922 and the immense volume of modern containers it was inconsistent with the original purpose of the rules of protecting the cargo to treat a container as one package where its contents consisted of serarately packed items enumerated in the bill of lading.

In 1922 nothing like containers existed and therefore "package" could only have been intended to refer to cargo items such as crates, sacks or bales or other customary packing used at the time.

His Lordship said that the rules envisaged circumstances where a shipper might furnish information to the carrier which the carrier might not have any reasonable means of checking.

In such circumstances the rules gave the carrier the opportunity of avoiding making a statement in the bills of lading which could create prima facie evidence of the number of packages shipped.

If the carrier sought to limit his liability under article IV, rule 5 the absence of such prima facie evidence did not preclude him from doing so: it merely made his task more difficult.

His Lordship said that there was therefore nothing in the rules which expressly or by implication precluded from counting as a package an item which the carrier had no means of identifying as a separate package.

His Lordship then went on to consider a number of authorities from other jurisdictions including the United States and Canada. He concluded that the overwhelming weight of international judicial authority was against adopting the approach to construing article IV, rule 5 contended for by the carriers and, unless the language of the convention was capable of only one meaning, the English courts ought to reach that conclusion which achieved international uniformity.

For those reasons his Lordship had no hesitation in concluding that the construction of article IV, rule 5 which the English courts should adopt was that where separately packed items had been loaded into a container by the shipper or his agents and the carrier had had no opportunity to tally or verify the contents of the container and the carrier or his agent signed a bill of lading which, as in the present case, described under the heading "Container nos" the identification numbers of the various containers received and stated under the heading "Number and kind of packages; description of goods" words such as "1 x 20ft container stc [said to contain]: 8 cases" of goods, there were eight packages and not one.

However, if the contents of the container were described by words which left it unclear whether they were separately packed for transportation, the container would be the package and not the individual items.

If the contents of the container were described in the bill of lading as said to contain so many separately packed items which in turn were said to contain a specified number of separately packed items, the number of packages would be the smallest category of separately packed items so described.

The defendants further relied on a clause in the bill of lading which sought to impose on the shipper a contractual definition of what constituted a package which would have nullified the effect under article IV, rule 5 of the express enumeration in the bill of lading of separately packed items.

His Lordship considered a number of US authorities and concluded that article III, rule 8 of the Hague Rules applied to nullify the effect of the clause as reducing the defendants' liability for loss from negligence.

Solicitors: Waltons & Morse; Hill Dickinson Davis Campbell, Liverpool.

Investigators cannot become receivers

Sheppard and Cooper Ltd v TSB Bank plc and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment February 26]

Licensed insolvency practitioners appointed in 1993 at the instigation of a bank to investigate the affairs of a debtor on the clear terms that they would not undertake any responsibility for the management of the company's affairs either now or in the future could not thereafter be appointed adminstrative receivers of the company.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the company, Sheppard and Cooper Ltd, from the refusal by Mr Justice Harman on February 16, 1996, to renew injunctions granted ex parte on February 13, 1996 restraining the first defendant, TSB Bank plc from acting on an appointment of receivers on February 7, 1996, and the second and third defendants, Mr Iain Allan and Mr Richard Oirschott, partners in the firm Smith and Williamson, from acting as the company's administrative receivers.

Mr Christopher Moss, QC and Mr Geoffrey Zelin for the plaintiff company; Mr Philip Heslop, QC and Mr J. C. S. M. Brisby for the defendants.

SIR JOHN BALCOMBE said that the company, involved in the antique and ancient glass trade, was not prospering and in February 1993, at the instigation of the bank, it agreed to the appointment of Smith and Williamson to investigate its affairs and prepare a report.

The letter of appointment, dated February 1, 1993, provided that Smith and Williamson would "not undertake any responsibility for the management of company's affairs either now or in the future".

That provision was included partly because of the fear that if investigative accountants were allowed in they would find it easy to be convinced that a receivership ought to follow in the hope that they would be appointed. The subsequent report did not recommend the appointment of receivers.

On February 7, 1993, following a meeting between representatives of the parties, the bank, acting under the terms of a debenture, appointed the second and third defendants as administrative receivers of the company.

The judge had stated that it was possible that the intent and effect of the provision in the letter of appointment was to exclude Smith and Williamson from ever being appointed receivers of the company.

However, having pointed out that the company was in a difficult financial position, he went on to hold that as a matter of discretion the right conclusion on the balance of convenience was to refuse to renew the injunctions because merely to prevent "these particular gentleman from acting as receivers" would be an act which effectively would be in vain.

The judge was wrong. The provision in the letter of February 1 was so plain as to be incapable of further argument.

It meant what it said: in return for taking on the investigation the partners in Smith and Williamson accepted that they would not take any responsibility for running the affairs of the company either then or in the future. After three years it could not be said that that agreement had spent its force.

In *Doherty v Allman* ((1878) 3 App Cas 709, 720) Lord Cairns, Lord Chancellor, had said:

"If parties ... contract that a particular thing shall not be done, all that a court of equity has to do is to say, by way of injunction, that which the parties have already said by way of covenant, that the thing shall not be done...

"It is not then a question of the balance of convenience or inconvenience, or of the amount of damage or of injury — it is the specific performance, by the court, of that negative bargain which the parties have made with their eyes open, between themselves."

Applying that dictum and *Patel v W. H. Smith (Eziot) Ltd* ([1987] 1 WLR 853) to the facts of the instant case, the company was entitled to the injunctions. No question of the balance of convenience arose and the court could interfere with the judge's exercise of his discretion.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

Solicitors: Withers; Hammond & Suddards.

Notional third person required for offence of affray

Regina v Sanchez

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice Ognall

[Judgment February 20]

Affray was a public order offence involving not only the perpetrator of violence and the victim but also a third person, a person of reasonable firmness who was put in fear of his personal safety. The victim could not be the notional bystander.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when allowing the appeal against conviction for affray of Tina Sanchez under section 3(1) of the Public Order Act 1986, in St Albans Crown Court (Judge Findlay Baker and a jury).

Mr Rory Field for the appellant; Miss Kate Mallison for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE OGNALL, giving the judgment of the court, said that when the trial judge came to direct the jury on the essential ingredients of the offence of affray, he dealt first with the requirement of the deliberate use or threat of violence. That direction was without fault.

However, on the other ingredient in the offence, the "person of reasonable firmness", the judge said that the victim was just such a person and that he was to be believed when he said that he was frightened by the appellant's conduct.

That was a misdirection in that it overlooked the jury's need to consider not only the victim of the violence or threat of violence, but also the putative third person, the hypothetical bystander or person of reasonable firmness who must be put in fear of his personal safety.

Their Lordships cited *R v Davison* ([1992] Crim LR 31) drawing attention in particular to the commentary by Professor Sir John Smith stating that that highlighted the correct approach.

Professor Smith pointed out that the offence of affray envisaged at least three persons: (i) the person using or threatening violence; (ii) the person towards whom that violence or threat was directed; and (iii) a person of reasonable firmness, who need not actually be or be likely to be present at the scene.

Professor Smith then went on to say that the offence of affray was designed for the protection of the bystander. It was a public order offence. There were other offences for the protection of persons at whom the violence was aimed.

The definition of affray was very wide and the court agreed with counsel that care had to be taken to avoid extending it so widely that it would cover every case of common assault.

A common assault might be trivial so that it would not cause anyone to fear for his personal safety but where the assault threatened serious harm to the victim there might be evidence of affray depending on the circumstances.

The commentary continued that the person of reasonable firmness present in a small room might faer for his personal safety whereas the same person, observing the same conduct in an open space, would not.

Their Lordships added that those comments of Professor Smith applied to the present case where the act of violence took place outside a block of flats.

There was in the circumstances every opportunity for the hypothetical bystander to distance himself.

Solicitors: Turner & Debenhams, St Albans; Crown Prosecution Service, St Albans.

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The latest attempt in America to hide television sex and violence from children is a doomed enterprise

The biggest folly since Prohibition

BRENDA MADDOX

V *is for lots of things.* Virtuousness, vacuity and voter, to name but three — and V-chip makes four. An impending American law will require all new television sets to contain a V-chip. This clever bit of silicon should really be called the S-and-V chip because it can prevent any programme carrying a sex or violence classification from entering the set.

Of course I welcome this decision, taken by the Republican Congress and endorsed by the Democrat President. It will stop either political party from claiming a monopoly on family values in the coming presidential election. It will remind Hollywood and the television networks that they should regain their lost art of showing murder without gore, and sex with clothes on.

Sadly, the compulsory V-chip will not do what its backers want it to do. It will not make America a less violent society. It will not even justify President Clinton's ebullient claim to be "handing the TV remote control back to America's parents".

For the V-chip is the most outwittable child-control device since the out-of-reach biscuit jar. Children have only to be old enough to outsmart their parents at programming the chip, clever enough to watch in *their bedroom*, where the family's discarded television set inevitably ends up — the V-chip will be fitted *only to* new sets — or to watch forbidden shows at a friend's house.

Not *much juvenile* ingenuity will be required to become the neighbourhood supplier of contraband *videos for those* deprived by their parents of the hot stuff. The V-chip could be America's biggest folly *since Prohibition.*

President Clinton's concept of "America's parents" itself harks back *to a bygone age.* All too many American homes have only one parent. For these, at work or out on the town much of *the time, the* V-chip's main benefit could be to eliminate guilt about leaving the child with *the electronic babysitter.*

But the V-chip's function is mainly symbolic. There are already plenty of electronic aids to help responsible parents — particularly those who are cable subscribers — to block out the undesirable. The compulsory chip is the cover for a larger, more contentious campaign — to restore wholesomeness to network television.

The chip demands a national moral-rating system for programmes. Last week American broadcasters agreed to draw up their own by next January. They had no choice. For — and this alarms the American Civil Liberties Union — the new telecommunications law provides for a federal ratings agency to do the job if the industry fails to do so. And such an agency, claims the ACLU, by imposing a Government-designed code of approved content would violate the constitutional protection of free speech.

A crude classification for sex and violence will be harder to impose on television than on film. TV is too varied a commodity: an endless, *multichannelled stream of news*, sports, cartoons, stories and conversation.

Schindler's List? Lawrence of Arabia? Tom and Jerry? The history of the American Civil War? Oprah Winfrey on battered wives? A championship boxing match? A massacre in Israel? Personally, I'd rather let children see the evidence that blown-up bodies break into bloody bits than the contorted faces of shrieking mothers and weeping wives. But in Britain, by agreement, the violence is censored out of the news.

The impossibility of designing a code that will satisfy all of America's warring moralists probably will sabotage the V-chip. Simply to classify all television material by next year would mean either that censors would have to work overtime, or that there would be blank screens.

But the V-chip sounds so good that David Alton, MP, will do his *best to fit it into Britain's* new Broadcasting Bill, and the European Parliament has endorsed it in principle.

The prospect does not alarm as ardent a civil libertarian as Lord Lester of Herne Hill. "The right to communicate includes the right not to communicate," he says. "As long as it's simply a blab-off thing, it's not a free-speech issue."

Maybe not. But there is a lot to be said for avoiding legislative gimmicks that offer quick fixes to society's ills. Still, I shall not worry. The difficulties of the United States in designing a uniform moral standard will be nothing to those of Europe, where one country welcomes the head of state's mistress to the graveside while its neighbour considers that the mere fact of having a mistress *may disqualify a man from holding* the top job at all.

B *ig names in the BBC seem* to be falling over each other to join the new Channel 5, *which will* take to the air — well, to some of it — next January. Money people, too, are excited about the riches about to be wrung from Britain's last available terrestrial channel.

Hard, I had thought, for a new service to find a niche not occupied by the existing four. But last Tuesday at 8pm I changed my mind. On offer was: children's plastic surgery (BBC1), the British funeral (BBC2), interviews with families of road-accident victims (Channel 4) and an hour-long drama about a compulsive liar confessing to murder (ITV).

Yes. Channel 5 will be very welcome.

Bimedia is the only way forward

Chris Cramer says the BBC's news policy makes sense

The BBC now has reporters, such as George Alagiah, who can work on both TV and radio

I *believe I heard a very old* canard sound off in Brenda Maddox's col*umn last week when she* suggested that the BBC's policy of using its reporters and correspondents across radio and television news programmes was, in some way, damaging the purity of radio reporting.

The BBC — like many other broadcasters — has been using its staff both for radio and for television for the past 40 years. It is a sensible use of people paid for out of licence-payers' money and fell by the wayside in the 1970s only because of the dynamics of an emerging television industry and the mistaken belief that both media needed their own dedicated *reporting resources.*

Common sense was reintroduced with the arrival of the BBC's *current* Director-General, John Birt, who instantly spotted this grotesque waste of *staff and money.*

Since 1991, the BBC's Newsgathering department has been operating the so-called "bimedia" policy, with great success and to the admiration of fellow broadcasters around the world.

Far from damaging radio output it has positively enhanced the kind of reportage viewers and listeners now take for granted on Radio 4's *Today* programme and BBC1's *Nine O'Clock News.*

*Before this it was not unusu*al for both radio and television correspondents to be deployed *on the same relatively simple* assignment at home or overseas. One famous occasion had two reporters travelling to the same story on the same aircraft, carrying out their duties and then meeting on the plane back home. Neither knew the other had been deployed at considerable expense to the licence-payer.

There was no way the BBC could continue this practice of running its radio and television news operations as if the other did not exist. Which is why we changed it.

The policy smacked of the same arrogance which suggested that it took three or four *technicians* — plus the odd producer and a reporter or correspondent — to film a *simple* news event. We now routinely deploy a single cameraperson and a reporter *to film most news stories* which appear on our screens.

Nowhere in the BBC's policy *have we suggested that radio* and television news reporting require the same skills — that "radio news is TV news without pictures". We are not that daft. It is obvious that the power of *the spoken word* can be more compelling on radio than on television.

Both forms of broadcasting often require a different set of skills. But good journalism is a common theme. A good radio correspondent is almost always a good television correspondent. And vice versa.

*Through training and pro*fessional production back-up the BBC has turned excellent radio reporters into superb television practitioners. Fergal Keane, first in South Africa, *now in Hong Kong, now has* as many television awards to his credit as those he won for *radio. Nicholas Witchell and* John Humphrys and George Alagiah, formerly television reporters, *now work mostly* for radio outlets.

Radio may address a differ*ent audience and work to* sharper deadlines but the newsgatherers work in almost identical ways. They are professional journalists whose task is to get the facts and that actuality to go with it.

*Radio has never taken sec*ond place in the BBC's bimedia policy. Far from it. It has benefited from the expansion in foreign and domestic coverage which has accompa*nied the policy of covering the* world in a better way. And there is a declared priority *when it comes to breaking* news: radio comes first.

The BBC's spread of over*seas bureaux — the largest for* any world broadcaster — has put a broadcaster in just about *every part of the globe.*

Without a bimedia policy, the BBC could never have afforded to launch the continuing news service on radio, Radio 5 Live, and will not be able to launch a television version for the UK.

And the bimedia policy will not end there. When radio and *television* colleagues are housed in the same building in west London, the synergy which has developed since 1991 will enhance further. And journalists working for both *media will soon* be able *to* produce news reports for the BBC's planned text and on*line services with just a stroke* of the computer key.

Trimedia working is just *around the corner.*

● *Chris Cramer is Head of Newsgathering for the BBC.*

A code of practice for teen magazines

Guy Walters looks between the covers and finds girls' magazines are full of sex

L ast week, Tom Sackville, the Home Office Minister, held a meeting with journalists to discuss the sexual content of teenage girls' magazines. The move followed the furore created by Peter Luff, the Tory MP, whose Private Member's Bill seeks to make magazines display an age-suitability warning.

The outcome of the meeting will probably scupper the Bill, *as it was agreed that a* voluntary code of practice will be established within the next *six weeks. However, little* mention was made of what the code will contain.

Much of the subject matter in titles such as *Bliss, Sugar* and *Just Seventeen* cannot be mentioned in a respectable newspaper. A browse-through shows there is much about what boys get up to with bits of their bodies, and how that affects bits of girls' bodies. It was after Mr Luff found his daughter reading one of them that he drew up his Bill.

Many girls under 16 are sexually active, according to a readers' sex survey in *Bliss*. In its current edition (subtitled "A girl's gotta have it!") the results are published, and the replies came from 12 to 22-year-olds; 48 per cent of those asked had experienced sex; 82 per cent of them were under 16 years old and 31 per cent were aged 14. Any idea of banning sexual topics would clearly be a disservice to the readership.

Louise Matthews, the executive publishing director of Emap Elan, which publishes *Bliss* and four other teenage titles, says the magazines seek to educate. "Our aims are to provide information to help girls make the right choices," she says, "and to make them *realise that* sex under the age of 16 is illegal." Dawn Bébe, the editor of *Bliss*, says that if *the magazine received a letter* from a 14-year-old who was having sex, "we would say this was *wrong* and we would explain why; we do bear in mind that our readership is at a *sensitive* age".

M r Luff, who says he is "genuinely very encouraged" with the outcome of the meeting, believes *such an editorial poli*cy is an excuse to bombard young people with salacity. "*Pieces on how pop stars* lost their virginity undermine the magazines' claims that they *are offering useful advice,*" he says.

This makes Ms Matthews seethe. "Much of our editorial content is taken out of context," she says. "If these people have lost their virginity at an early age then we say it's a bad thing. What annoys me about *Mr Luff is that he stands up in* Parliament and reads coverlines from *More*, which has a readership with an average age of 22." Mr Luff counters this. "It's simply not clear what age these magazines are aimed at, from *Sugar* all the way *up to More.*"

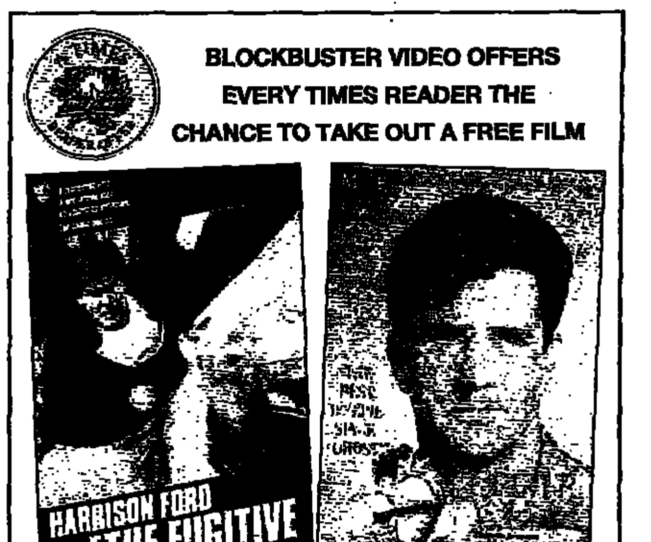
Despite the brouhaha, it looks as though the code of practice will merely formalise existing editorial policy. Ian Locks, chief executive of the Periodical Publishers' Association, says: "The guidelines will be very clear on the issue of children having intercourse before the age of 16. Age guidance is not appropriate; it will only encourage younger children to read the magazines."

"As we see it," says Ms Bébe, "This will just make things offical. I hope people will be reassured by the guidelines. When we discussed *what the guidelines might be,* we realised that they were already being followed."

On *Bliss's* Sex Questions page, a blue star already appears bearing the words: "*It's cool to wait; sex under 16* is illegal." The magazine also found the results of its survey "*alarming*", *and the accompa*nying article leaves readers in no doubt that under-age sex is *undesirable.*

I t even publishes a letter *from a girl describing her* regrets at having sex at 14. In *Sugar*, there is a piece headlined, "Sex — are you in too deep?" The piece is full of advice on how to say no, which is more or less what the industry is saying.

A new code of conduct is unlikely to bring about much change, therefore. Certainly censorship is out of the question: it would only stir up a violent reaction from the press. This could well create a real problem for John Major. Still, perhaps he could write to *Sugar's* advice page.



Will setting an age limit only entice younger readers?

Alan Mitchell reports on food marketers who dance around labelling regulations

How healthy is food containing factor X?

H ow are consumers to judge the claims marketers make when they offer their products? The question is taking on new urgency as the food multinationals start to tamper with "natural" foods so they can say there is *something* "New! Improved!" about them.

In the past few months *Safeway* has started selling a tomato purée made from genetically modified tomatoes. Waitrose is merchandising a range of bread and pasta products that contain omega-3 fatty acids found mainly in fish oil and linked to the prevention of heart disease, and Sainsbury's is stocking LCI, a new Nestlé product impregnated with the *Lactobacillus acidophilus* culture which, it claims, "helps your body protect itself by boosting your body's immune system against harmful bacteria".

Functional foods — foods with special ingredients that offer "*medical*" *or health* benefits — are becoming the subject of a war of words over what claims marketers can make about them.

Pressure groups such as the National Food Alliance fear that current regulations allow marketers to dodge many crucial questions. For example, do the products or ingredients actually do *what* they claim to do when eaten in the form in which they are being marketed? How often and how much of the stuff must consumers guzzle before getting the advertised benefits?

Could the harm done by the carrier — such as over-sugared fizzy drinks, sweets or yoghurts — outweigh the benefit offered by the functional ingredient? As for cost, some "energy drinks" sell at 40 times a litre more than own-label colas.

The biggest issue, however, is substantiation. Regulations about *food health* claims are strict. Any company wanting to claim that one of its products prevents, treats *or* cures human disease has to apply for a medical licence.

Jack Winkler, chairman of the National Food Alliance's *functional* foods working group, says agile marketers are dancing around the regulations. *Instead of* claiming that a product prevents, say, heart disease, they say it "maintains" or "promotes" *a* healthy heart or they imply a *claim* by the name or design of the product. MD Foods' Pact, for example, comes in a heart-shaped *tub. A new* range from Functional Nutrition is simply called Heartwatch.

Mr Winkler *says the most* subtle evasion device is to use the company's PR machine to get the media gushing about the latest "miracle" ingredient. *Then* all the advertising has to do is say "with added X".

Manufacturers criticise the "scare *tactics*" used by some food campaigners. David Richardson, Nestlé group chief scientist *and chairman* of the Food and Drink Federation's functional foods working party, insists that pressure groups and manufacturers are fundamentally at one. "Consumers," he says, "do not want misleading and unhelpful claims, and all reputable manufacturers agree." But at present, he notes, "there are no precise guidelines on the nature of scientific validation".

Already there are casualties. Last December SmithKline *Beecham was rebuked by the* Advertising Standards Authority for its claims about Ribena *Juice and Fibre. Today the* ASA announces it has upheld three complaints against Gaio, an MD Foods yoghurt-style product which, its marketers claimed, could "help to *lower the level of harmful* cholesterol in the body".

Speaking at the time of Gaio's *launch*, David Whitehouse, MD Foods' marketing director, said: "We have in*vested in independent* clinical research to demonstrate the real benefits of Gaio." But the ASA rules that the limited size of this independent research (a six-week study of 54 men in *Denmark) means the claims* are "unsupported".

Now the Government's Food *Advisory Committee* says it will review guidelines for labelling genetically modified foods and re-examine existing controls on health claims for functional foods.

THE TIMES SOCIAL GROUPS TOP-TEN TV SHOWS: ABC1 v C2DE

GOOD television defies class barriers, as all fans of *Coronation Street* know. That programme, together with *Casualty* and *EastEnders*, appears in the top three audience-pullers for both middle-class (ABC1) and working-class (C2DE) viewers, according to the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

The National Lottery Live (at six in both Top Tens), *Ballykissangel*, Catherine Cookson, *Antiques Roadshow* and *The Bill* all have broad appeal. But *As Time Goes By*, a second-home-owners sit-com, and the high-flying *Superman* are strictly for ABC1s while C2DEs prefer the more down-to-earth *Emmerdale* and *Play Your Cards Right.*

FEBRUARY 12 to 18, 1996

Socio-economic groups ABC1

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Audience (m) ABC1	C2DE
1	Casualty	Sat 17	20.07	BBC1	BBC	7.2	9.7
2	Coronation Street	Wed 14	19.30	ITV	Granada	6.9	11.7
3	Eastenders	Thu 15	19.30	BBC1	BBC	6.8	10.0
4	Ballykissangel	Sun 18	19.45	BBC1	World/BallyKea	6.5	7.7
5	Antiques Roadshow	Sun 18	19.01	BBC1	BBC	6.0	7.4
6	The National Lottery Live	Sat 17	19.51	BBC1	BBC	5.9	8.0
7	The New Adventures Of Superman	Sat 17	18.16	BBC1	Warner/Dec 3rd	5.5	5.7
8	As Time Goes By	Sun 18	20.36	BBC1	Theatre of Comedy/DLT	5.3	6.2
9	The Bill	Fri 16	20.02	ITV	Thames	5.3	8.9
10	Catherine Cookson's The Girl	Fri 16	21.02	ITV	Festival/Worldwide	5.2	7.7

Socio-economic groups C2DE

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Audience (m) ABC1	C2DE
1	Coronation Street	Wed 14	19.30	ITV	Granada	6.9	11.7
2	EastEnders	Thu 15	19.30	BBC1	BBC	6.8	10.0
3	Casualty	Sat 17	20.07	BBC1	BBC	7.2	9.7
4	Emmerdale	Tue 13	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire	4.8	9.6
5	The Bill	Fri 16	20.02	ITV	Thames	5.3	8.9
6	The National Lottery Live	Sat 17	19.51	BBC1	BBC	5.9	8.0
7	Play Your Cards Right	Fri 16	18.59	ITV	Talbot Fremantle	3.8	7.8
8	Catherine Cookson's The Girl	Fri 16	21.02	ITV	Festival/Worldwide	5.2	7.7
9	Ballykissangel	Sun 18	19.45	BBC1	World/BallyKea	6.5	7.7
10	Antiques Roadshow	Sun 18	19.01	BBC1	BBC	6.0	7.4

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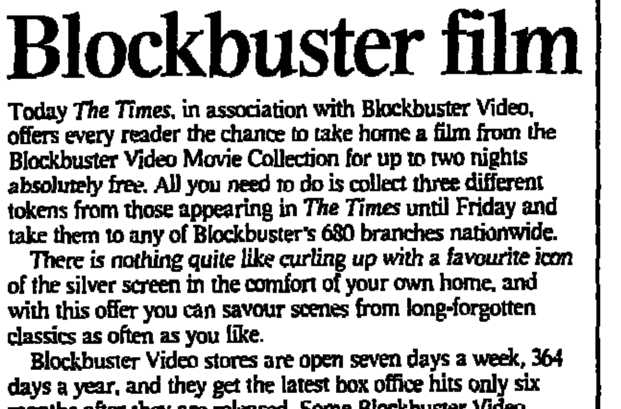

BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO OFFERS EVERY TIMES READER THE CHANCE TO TAKE OUT A FREE FILM

See a free Blockbuster film

Today *The Times*, in association with Blockbuster Video, offers every reader the chance to take home a film from the Blockbuster Video Movie Collection for up to two nights *absolutely free*. All you need to do is collect three different tokens from those appearing in *The Times* until Friday and take them to any of Blockbuster's 680 branches nationwide.

There is nothing quite like curling up with a favourite icon of the silver screen in the comfort of your own home, and with this offer you can savour scenes from long-forgotten classics as often as you like.

Blockbuster Video stores are open seven days a week, 364 days a year, and they get the latest box office hits only six months after they are released. Some Blockbuster Video stores have 10,000 film titles in 30 categories and up to 100 *copies of a new release.*

They offer a range to suit all tastes including *chiller thrillers, mobster* movies, sci-fi horrors, musicals, romances, and comedies.

You may choose any film from the Blockbuster Video Movie Collection and keep your video for up to two *nights. The* offer is valid from March 6 to April 3, 1996.

THE TIMES
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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Boys who are 'doomed to failure'

■ White working-class boys are getting caught in a vicious circle of under-achievement at school that could lead through truancy to a life of unemployment or crime and eventually cause social upheaval, education experts said.

Many boys are leaving school without basic skills, and their failure is described by the Chief Inspector of Schools as one of the education system's most disturbing problems..........Page 1

FA raided over 80p levy on footballs

■ European Commission officials unexpectedly raided the Football Association headquarters in London in an investigation into a levy on footballs. According to the commission, the collection of a levy of 80p by FIFA, football's governing body, for each football it approves may be a breach of European competition law..........Page 1

Law Society rule

The Law Society's governing body will be asked to approve measures to prevent any sequel to last year's furore over sexual harassment allegations .... Page 1

Envoy criticised

Jean Kennedy Smith, the American Ambassador to Dublin, has been criticised by State Department investigators for punishing dissent over her past support for Gerry Adams..........Page 1

New fish dispute

Ministers promised to win control of Britain's fishing grounds after suffering a legal defeat that allows Spanish fishermen to sue the Government for banning them from British waters.Page 2

Child sex film

A film whose depiction of ten-year-olds indulging in sex and drugs was considered so offensive it was refused a general certificate in America has been approved by British censors..........Page 3

Medical reprimand

Medical authorities who took a dying ten-year-old boy to four hospitals during a 12-hour ordeal were condemned for "ghastly misjudgment"..........Page 5

Missionary windfall

A little-known missionary organisation has leapt into the top 30 of the charity league with a windfall of £92 million from the sale of land in Hong Kong..........Page 8

Dissident's 'victory'

An Islamic dissident ordered out in a move allegedly designed to protect arms sales to Saudi Arabia claimed victory when a tribunal rejected arguments by the Home Secretary..........Page 10

Blair home plea

Tony Blair outlined plans to rescue people from negative equity and to expose mortgage lenders that charge the highest commission fees..........Page 11

Buchanan's strength

Pat Buchanan has built a following so passionate that he could wreak havoc at the Republican convention in San Diego if his demands are ignored..........Page 12

Editor sacked

Democracy and press freedom in Zimbabwe have suffered a serious setback with the sacking of the editor of the country's only independent newspaper .Page 13

Israel fights back

Israeli troops and secret service agents went on the offensive against Islamic militants, barricading Palestinian residents inside hundreds of West Bank villages and towns..........Page 14

No to Europe

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, dismissed as unworkable plans to force British taxpayers to subsidise French or German actions overseas that Britain strongly opposed..........Page 15

Military pictures are posted AWOL

■ The Ministry of Defence has "lost" almost 200 works of art, one fifth of its entire collection. The paintings, prints and drawings have gone absent without leave from residences, messes and even the offices of defence ministers. The value of the missing art is not known, but the ministry's collection of about 900 items is worth in excess of £5 million..........Page 7

SHIN KWONG SOO

John Major burning incense at the national cemetery in Seoul yesterday during his one-day official visit to South Korea

BUSINESS

Tarmac: Police have raided the offices of the construction group and its subcontractors in an investigation into alleged financial irregularities..........Page 25

Rail hotel: The Great Eastern is to undergo a £30 million facelift after its lease by Railtrack to a consortium including restauranteur Sir Terence Conran..........Page 25

Tesco: The supermarket group made its boldest move yet into Eastern Europe with the purchase of businesses in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for £77 million. Tesco already has a presence in Hungary and Poland..........Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 8.5 to 3777.1. Sterling to 83.6 after rises from $1.5278 to $1.5281 and DM2.2556 to DM2.2593....Page 28

SPORT

Cricket: Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, announced that he would retire from the international game after the World Cup. He said he had made the decision last summer..........Page 48

Football: Manchester United's victory over Newcastle United opened up the Premiership to a three-team finale that is likely to become as tense and intriguing as any in recent times..........Page 44

Motor racing: The Australian Grand Prix, the first of the season, is threatened by an ecological group..........Page 42

Racing: Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, attracted support at the Tote lunch with plans for bets to combat the National Lottery..........Page 45

ARTS

An Oscar for art? For the first time recently a subtitled "art-house" film is up for the Best Film Oscar. Does *Il Postino* have any chance against *Apollo 13*?..........Page 33

Hot from Cornwall: The Donmar Warehouse has launched its festival of regional theatre with a fine play from Cornwall, *The King of Prussia*..........Page 33

Period perfection: One of the world's finest period-instrument ensembles, Vienna Concentus Musicus, demonstrated its quality in an all-Haydn programme at the Barbican..........Page 35

Weill nights: Dessau, in east Germany, has paid tribute to its most famous musical son by inaugurating an annual Kurt Weill Festival..........Page 35

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Sam Neill (left) in *Restoration*, a thundering version of Rose Tremain's novel. Plus other new films

■ BOOKS
Bernard Levin on the impressive output of Gore Vidal

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To pay or not: Nigella Lawson looks at the clash between believing in state education and wanting the best for your children..........Page 17

War and peace: Martin Bell says he is going to retire from war reporting. But what then will a war correspondent do?..........Page 17

FASHION

Long-legged cipher: The model, with her unaturally womanly movements, challenges men to think the unthinkable..........Page 16

MEDIA

Dual skills: Bimedia reporting is the only way forward says the BBC. Using one journalist to report for radio and television saves licence-payers' money..........Page 23

HOMES

Selling Scotland: As aristocrats find the upkeep of their land too costly, many estates are being sold to overseas buyers..........Page 41

THE PAPERS

Hamas represents those Palestinians who still believe Israel's existence is an intolerable affront and who embrace the notion that only through violence can Palestinian aspirations be achieved. Arafat must act in behalf of those Palestinians who have had enough of killing and whose greatest longing is for normal, peaceful and productive lives — *Los Angeles Times*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Worker control has revived a South Wales pit. *Modern Times: Into the Light* (BBC2, 9pm)
Review: Lynne Truss welcomes a 23-part murder mystery....Page 47

OPINION

Europe's realists

With France Britain can discuss the world as it really is, not as "those who sleep with the Treaty of Rome under their pillow" might wish it to be..........Page 19

Home truths

Tony Blair's effort to represent Labour as the "party of home ownership" ia another audacious incursion into ideological territory which the Tories had long regarded as their own..........Page 19

Send for Serena

"Some Whitehall Warrior from the National Audit Office has counted all the Army's paintings out and failed to count 184 of them back. And now the whole story has leaked to the reptiles in Parliament and the press"..........Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Bombs have become standard issue in the diplomacy of ethnic conflict. They are to constitution-building what the tough cop is to crime-busting. Nobody, I am sometimes tempted to think, really wants the fight to end..........Page 18

CHRIS WOODHEAD

The Chief Inspector of Schools says that the failure of boys and, in particular, white working class boys, is one of the most disturbing problems we face within the whole education system..........Page 18

ALAN COREN

How can any of us be certain again that the appealing con we have just been junk-mailed does not conceal a greater con calculated to get us where we have hitherto managed not to be got? Is any of us so confident of spotlessness as to take that risk?..........Page 18

OBITUARIES

Anna Larina, widow of the Bolshevik theorist Nikolai Bukharin; **Vehbi Koç**, Turkish businessman; **Peter Samuelson**, painter and diarist..........Page 21

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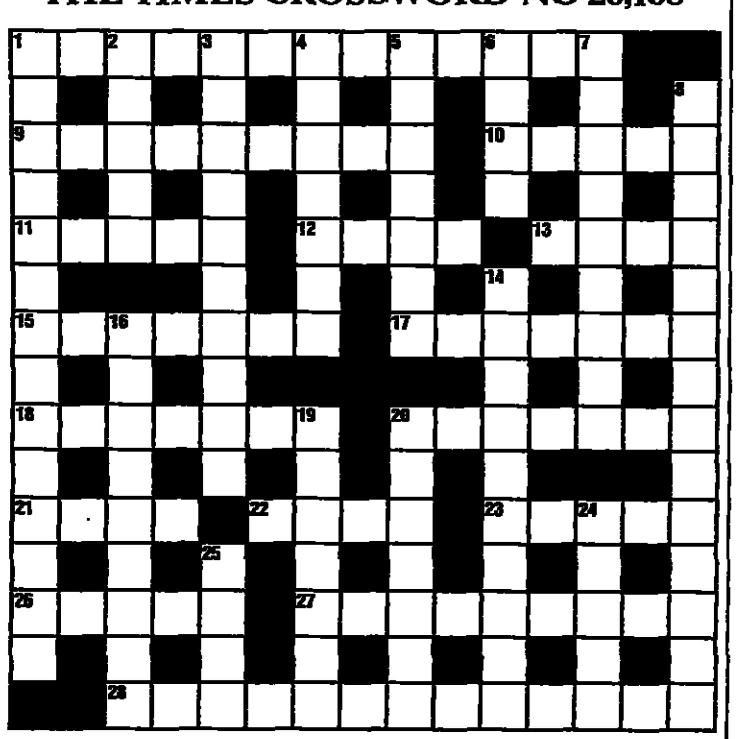
Lord Howe on Rushdie fatwa; *Sea Empress* disaster; *The Times* 150 years ago..........Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,108



ACROSS

1 Two sizes of paper used in plant (5,8).
9 Come through and serve beers (4,5).
10 Leave to study outside of Grenoble (5).
11 One served with French court order (5).
12 Language is pronounced indicator of educational background (4).
13 Weapon originally featured in *Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (4).
15 The French repeatedly beset former British colony, it's clear (7).
17 Back roads round motorway showing potential for development (7).
18 Description of setting of Blarney stone (7).
20 Seven in Thebes I destroyed as well (7).
21 Society Islands in Pacific, whence final article's dispatched (4).
22 Russian woman almost perspiring when she runs back (4).
23 To publish quota they're taking regular contributions (5).
26 Money one might charge hunters in Africa (5).
27 Small excavation is absorbing one at anciety city (9).
28 Flourishing and healthy are this? (4,3,6).

DOWN

1 London landlords usually starting a list of names (7,7).
2 Worker's not beginning well (5).
3 Long transporter ran over eight in the US? (6,4).
4 Release follows under a second policeman (7).
5 *Newsday* broadcast presenting narrow views? (7).
6 Desire a charming woman, but not the wife (4).
7 Sleepy place where fratricide retired (4,2,3).
8 Island passes encourage railway operating through narrow cuttings (7,7).
14 Cause metal buckling and take away strength (10).
16 Lime which is lacking hard pips originated here (9).
19 Girl left a novel problem (7).
20 Hit on head and bottom — what's right in that? (7).
24 Regret replacing inside of timer to make more accurate (5).
25 Book an American soldier, beginning to loot (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,107

C	O	O	M	B		G	R	O	U	N	D	N	U	T
H		P		O		O		C		A		E		W
E	N	T	O	U	R	A	G	E		T	A	W	S	E
R		I		T		D		A		T		M		A
R	E	C	O	I	L		K	N	E	E	J	E	R	K
Y				Q		C		G		R		X		
P	I	N	C	U	S	H	I	O	N		T	I	F	F
I		A		E		A		I		A		C		R
E	N	V	Y		S	T	O	N	Y	B	R	O	K	E
		I		T		T		G		O				E
B	I	G	W	H	E	E	L		Q	U	A	R	T	Z
A		A		R		R		B		N		O		E
N	O	B	L	E		B	L	I	N	D	F	O	L	D
J		L		A		O		R		E		S		R
O	V	E	R	T	A	X	E	D		D	O	T	T	Y

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 28 per cent of the solo competitors in the Manchester Regional Final of *The Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 21 per cent of the pairs.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Strath Allan, Tayside, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Trawsgoed, Dyfed, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Marham, Norfolk, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Glasgow, 6hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will have a fairly cloudy day with a few bright or sunny intervals, especially in south Wales and southwest England. Easy Anglia and southeast England will be quite damp for a time in the morning with patchy rain or drizzle, but most of that will peter out during the day and skies may brighten somewhat.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will generally be dry with a good deal of cloud although most places will brighten up at times with a little sunshine.

The best of the sunshine is likely to be in central and southwest Scotland. After a chilly start in places with local frost in central Scotland, it will become quite mild in the brighter areas.

☐ **London, Central S, SE, E England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** mostly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle, some drier and brighter spells later. Winds light or moderate, northeasterly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, Central N, NE, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly dry and rather cloudy, a few bright or sunny intervals. Winds light, north or northeasterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** mostly dry with a few bright or sunny spells early in the day. Winds, light or moderate, northeasterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** patchy frost and fog clearing towards midday, then fine with broken clouds and some sunshine. Winds light and variable. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy with the chance of drizzle. Winds moderate, northwest. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** mostly dry in the northwest, but a little drizzle or rain elsewhere. Becoming colder with a freshening easterly wind.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder.

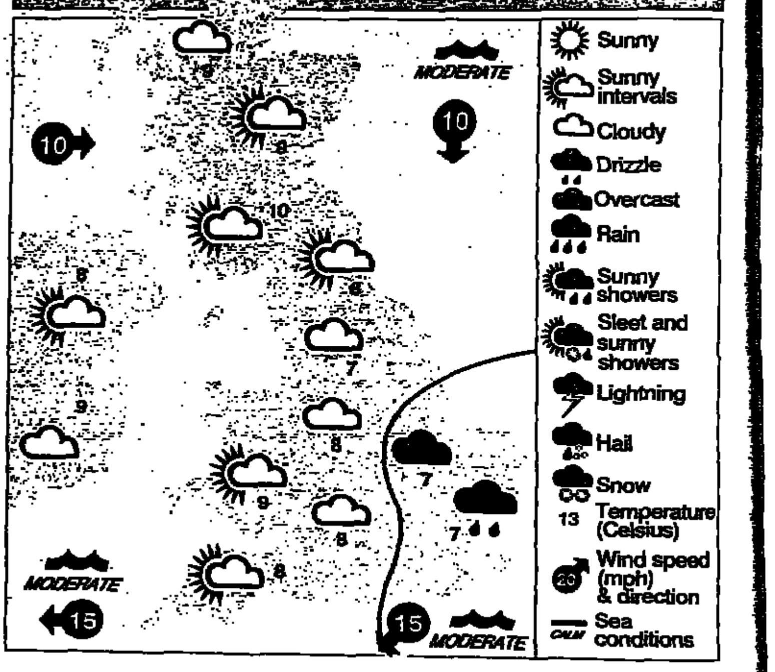
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.8	-	9	48	c	Littlehmptn	-	-	7	45	du
Anglesey	-	-	8	46	c	Liverpool	-	-	7	45	c
Aspatria	0.1	-	8	46	du	London	0.2	-	7	45	c
Aviemore	0.9	-	8	46	c	Lowestoft	3.1	0.06	6	43	sh
Belfast	-	-	7	45	c	Manchester	0.3	-	8	46	c
Birmingham	-	-	7	45	c	Margate	0.3	0.05	6	43	du
Bognor R	-	-	7	45	du	Minehead	-	-	8	46	c
Bournem'th	-	-	8	46	du	Morecambe	-	-	8	46	du
Bristol	-	-	9	48	c	Newcastle	-	-	8	46	du
Buxton	-	-	5	41	c	Newquay	-	-	9	48	c
Cardiff	-	-	9	48	c	Norwich	1.8	0.05	6	43	sh
Clacton	0.1	0.02	6	43	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	X				
Cromer	1.4	0.05	5	41	d	Penzance	0.1	-	10	50	c
Edinburgh	4.6	-	9	48	b	Plymouth	X				
Eskdalemuir	4.0	-	8	46	b	Poole	-	-	8	46	c
Exmouth	-	-	8	46	du	Prestatyn	X	-	7	45	du
Falmouth	0.4	-	10	50	c	Ross-o-wye	-	-	8	46	du
Fishguard	-	-	7	45	c	Ryde	X				
Folkestone	2.3	0.03	7	45	b	Salcombe	1.1	-	9	48	c
Glasgow	6.0	-	10	50	fg	Sandown	-	-	7	45	c
Guernsey	-	-	9	48	c	Saunton Snd	0.4	-	9	48	c
Hastings	0.7	0.02	7	45	r	Scarboro'	-	-	5	41	du
Hayling I	-	-	7	45	du	Shanklin	X				
Herne Bay	0.2	0.01	5	41	c	Shrewsbury	-	-	8	46	c
Hove	0.1	-	7	45	du	Southend	3.4	0.03	7	45	c
Hunstanton	2.1	0.07	6	43	c	Southport	-	-	7	45	c
Ilfracombe	X					Southsea	-	-	7	45	c
Isle of Man	-	-	8	46	c	Stornoway	2.8	-	10	50	c
Jersey	-	-	9	48	c	Teignmouth	-	-	9	48	c
Kinloss	1.2	-	10	50	c	Tiree	3.2	-	9	48	c
Leeds	-	-	8	46	c	Torquay	-	-	9	48	c
Lerwick	3.6	-	8	46	c	Ventnor	-	-	7	45	c
Leuchars	5.9	-	10	50	s	Weymouth	-	-	8	46	c

ABROAD

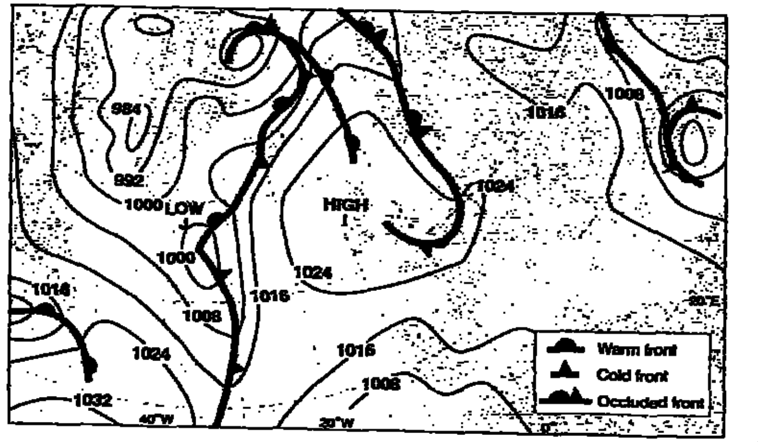
Ajaccio	11	52	s	C'phagn	1	34	c	Malta	14	57	f	S Paulo	27	81	c
Akrotiri	12	54	r	Dublin	7	45	c	Melb'rne	17	63	c	Salzburg	-3	27	sn
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dubrovnik	X			Mexico C	23	73	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Algiers	14	57	f	Faro	15	59	s	Miami	23	73	f	Seoul	7	45	f
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Florence	10	50	f	Milan	9	48	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	9	48	f	Frankfurt	3	37	f	Montreal	-7	19	X	St'kholm	0	32	sn
B Aires	26	79	f	Funchal	16	61	c	Moscow	-7	19	c	Strasb'rg	4	39	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Geneva	4	39	s	Munich	-1	30	f	Sydney	22	72	r
Bangkok	33	91	f	Gibraltar	16	61	f	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tangier	18	64	f
Barcelona	11	52	f	Helsinki	-5	23	sn	N York	0	32	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Beirut	18	64	s	Hong K	X			Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	21	70	c
Belgrade	X			Innsbrck	2	36	f	Naples	9	48	f	Tokyo	11	52	s
Berlin	0	32	c	Istanbul	0	32	s	Nice	11	52	f	Toronto	-4	25	s
Bermuda	15	59	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Oslo	1	34	s	Tunis	13	55	f
Biarritz	9	48	s	Jo'burg	16	61	f	Paris	5	41	f	Valencia	13	55	f
Borde'x	8	46	c	L Angels	13	55	r	Peking	12	54	s	Vanc'ver	3	37	sn
Brussels	2	36	d	L Palmas	22	72	f	Perth	25	77	f	Venice	5	41	f
Budapst	-1	30	c	Le Touqt	5	41	f	Prague	-3	27	f	Vienna	-1	30	f
Cairo	23	73	c	Lisbon	12	54	s	Reykjavik	5	41	r	Warsaw	-5	23	f
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Luxembg	2	36	c	Rhodes	12	54	s	Wash'ton	4	39	s
Ch'church	17	63	s	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	28	82	f	Wel'ngton	16	61	f
Chicago	0	32	s	Madrid	9	48	s	Riyadh	25	77	s	Zurich	0	32	f
Cologne	2	36	f	Majorca	10	50	c	Rome	10	50	s				
Corfu	8	46	s	Malaga	16	61	f	S Fr'sco	13	55	r				

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X - not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: High I will drift north east with little change in pressure. Low L will rush east and deepen. Low J will move north and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:19	6.7	2:43	6.9	Leith	3:05	5.3	3:24	5.4
Aberdeen	1:58	4.1	2:09	4.3	Liverpool	11:56	9.3	-	-
Avonmouth	7:51	12.9	8:12	12.8	Lowestoft	10:21	2.3	10:17	2.5
Belfast	11:43	3.5	11:53	3.3	Margate	0:20	4.6	12:41	4.5
Cardiff	7:36	11.8	7:56	11.7	Milford Haven	6:45	6.9	7:04	6.8
Devonport	6:25	5.3	6:48	5.2	Newquay	5:36	6.8	5:52	6.8
Dover	11:38	6.4	11:54	6.6	Oban	6:20	4.0	6:40	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12:07	4.0	Penzance	5:15	5.4	5:30	5.3
Falmouth	5:35	5.1	5:51	5.0	Portland	7:27	2.1	7:53	2.0
Greenock	1:21	3.0	1:10	3.4	Portsmouth	11:58	4.5	-	
Harwich	0:14	3.8	12:33	3.8	Shoreham	11:44	6.1	-	
Holyhead	10:53	5.5	11:12	5.4	Southampton	11:20	4.4	11:40	4.4
Hull (Albert D)	6:51	7.1	6:57	7.3	Swansea	7:00	9.3	7:19	9.2
Ilfracombe	6:34	9.2	6:54	9.2	Tees	4:14	5.1	4:25	5.2
King's Lynn	6:48	6.4	7:01	6.6	Walton-on-Naze	0:07	4.1	12:28	4.1

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.35 am
Sun sets: 5.50 pm
Moon sets 6.455 am
Moon rises 7.23 pm

London 5.50 pm to 6.32 am
Bristol 6.00 pm to 6.42 am
Edinburgh 5.58 pm to 6.48 am
Manchester 5.57 pm to 6.42 am
Penzance 6 13 pm to 6.53 am

Last quarter March 12

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 1996

MMC expected to clear power generators' bids

Wallis: PowerGen chief

By Melvyn Marckus
City Editor

SPECULATION is mounting in the electricity sector that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is ready to give a qualified go-ahead for PowerGen and National Power's respective takeover bids for Midlands Electricity and Southern Electric.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that the MMC panel, investigating the proposed amalgams, finished taking evidence from interested parties two weeks ago. The MMC, whose chairman Graeme Odgers also chairs the investigating panel, is due to report its findings to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, on March 22. Mr Lang's statement on the MMC's inquiry, accompanied by publication of the report, is expected to follow within two or three weeks.

A go-ahead for the PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern takeovers would run counter to the arguments put forward to the Office of Fair Trading and the MMC by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Offer. Professor Littlechild was opposed to much of the takeover activity that engulfed the electricity sector last year and is strongly set against vertical integration between power generation companies and the regional electricity companies (Recs) responsible for distribution.

The £1.9 billion bid by PowerGen, the chief executive of which is Ed Wallis, for Midlands, and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern were referred to the MMC last November. Mr Lang stated that "the decisions to make a reference do not in any way prejudge the question of whether or not either merger might operate against the public interest". He added: "In general, I do not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in these two cases, the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition."

The MMC's five-strong panel, chaired by Mr Odgers, is understood to have taken evidence from numerous parties. The four companies involved in the reference have inevitably given evidence, along with Professor Littlechild, but soundings are also understood to have been taken from the National Grid, the Major Energy Users Council, and several Recs including Eastern, acquired for £2.5 billion by Hanson.

ScottishPower's £1.1 bilion takeover of Manweb brought about an amalgam of generation and distribution interests, but, unlike the PowerGen/National Power deals, was not referred. The authorities argued that ScottishPower's share of the generation market in England and Wales was relatively small.

Further consolidation within the sector is seen as inevitable — speculation has recently swirled around Yorkshire Electricity — but several potential US predators are reputed to be waiting on publication of the MMC report. Midlands share price shaded 2p to 408p on the stock market yesterday, close to its peak of 412p. Southern's shares added 4p to 858p, against a high of 899p.

Pennington, page 27

Tarmac raided by fraud squad

By Jon Ashworth and Michael Evans

TWO of Britain's biggest construction groups have been raided by detectives studying alleged financial irregularities involving the Coulport nuclear armaments depot on the Clyde.

Thirty officers from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) police fraud squad swooped on the offices of Tarmac and Matthew Hall last week and seized documents relating to contracts worth millions of pounds. They are thought to be investigating allegations that invoices for construction work may have been falsely inflated.

Matthew Hall is a wholly owned subsidiary of Amec, the UK construction and engineering group that last year fought off a hostile £360 million bid by Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipbuilder and engineer.

Tarmac is chaired by Sir John Banham, former director-general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), while its chief executive is Neville Simms. The company had the contract to build roads and service facilities at Coulport, which came under the Trident nuclear submarine development project.

Last year, the MoD was accused of "mismanagement on a grand scale" by the cross-party Public Accounts Committee, after construction costs on the project over-ran by £800 million.

The raids were carried out on Thursday. Tarmac issued a statement, saying it was "extremely surprised" by the MoD action, which related to outstanding claims on Coulport contracts. Confirming the raid on the offices of Tarmac Construction in Wolverhampton, the company said: "It is most unusual to find this sort of action being taken by a client with whom negotiations are progressing. We will cooperate fully if there is any investigation once we have been advised of the MoD's concerns."

Simms: Tarmac chief

The contract, which was originally estimated at £58 million, rose to well over £100 million after significant changes to the proposals by the MoD. The construction programme roughly doubled the size of the Coulport base, where Polaris and Trident missiles are assembled and stored, and which is about three miles west of the Faslane nuclear submarine base.

It is believed that the MoD has already agreed payments to Tarmac of around £108 million. But during negotiations to resolve the remaining claims, the MoD called in its police force to seize documentation. Simultaneous raids were carried out on Matthew Hall's offices in London and Glasgow. The action was coordinated by Detective Superintendent John Hume, head of the MoD police fraud squad, under the supervision of the Procurator Fiscal at Dumbarton.

An MoD police spokesman said: "MoD police fraud squad entered the premises of Tarmac and subcontractors at Wolverhampton, Glasgow and London and seized documentation under a search warrant in connection with allegations of financial irregularities to do with contracts for the MoD in Scotland."

The MoD police fraud squad, based at Wethersfield near Braintree in Essex, recently set up a hotline to encourage civil servants and the public to give early warning of alleged irregularities in multimillion-pound defence contracts. The MoD's CID, said that 40 per cent of the time its 100 detectives spent on investigating crimes involved fraud allegations.

The MoD is unique in Whitehall in having its own police force, but from April 1, when it becomes a defence agency, it will be available for the first time to other government departments if they request help.

Shares in Tarmac eased 3p to 119p and Amec lost 4p to 95p.

Chris Burgin believes that new product ranges and a deal with Disney will bring fresh growth for Bluebird Toys

Bluebird confident despite dip

By Philip Pangalos

BLUEBIRD TOYS, the toy group whose products include the highly successful Polly Pocket miniature dolls, is hoping that a deal with Disney and new toy ranges including Batman, Spiderman and Space Monkeys will fuel future growth.

The group, which last year signed a lucrative product development and marketing deal with the Walt Disney Company, saw pre-tax profits dip to £17.8 million in the year to December 31, down from £19.7 million last time, as turnover declined to £87.3 million (£99.4 million).

Chris Burgin, chief executive, blamed the drop in profits on a slide in sales of the Mighty Max monster toys as well as a disappointment from the Mimi product range.

Mr Burgin expects Bluebird to reap rewards from a host of new product ranges in the pipeline, including Batman and Spiderman, and last year's deal with Disney.

A final dividend of 6.75p (6p), payable on May 22, gives 9p (8p) for the year, from fully diluted earnings of 24.2p (27.5p) a share. Bluebird had net cash of £34 million and intends to use £10 million for a share buyback.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3777.1	(+8.5)
Yield	3.89%	
FT-SE A All share	1864.59	(+5.76)
Nikkei	20183.87	(+119.99)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5591.84	(-8.31)*
S&P Composite	649.68	(-1.13)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5 5/16%)
Long Bond	94 11/16*	(95 17/32)
Yield	6.40%*	(6.34%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 7/32%	(6 7/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	107 7/8	(106 11/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5296*	(1.5275)
London:		
$	1.5289	(1.5289)
DM	2.2558	(2.2571)
FFr	7.7265	(7.7360)
SFr	1.8339	(1.8370)
Yen	160.65	(160.58)
£ Index	83.6	(83.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4755*	(1.4780)
FFr	5.0510*	(5.0640)
SFr	1.1990*	(1.2020)
Yen	105.08*	(105.20)
$ Index	95.6	(95.6)

Tokyo close Yen 105.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$16.85	($16.75)

GOLD

London close	$393.35	($393.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Higher voltage

THE Government will warn Britain's electricity industry today that it should avoid the mistakes of the UK's gas industry in preparing for competition and start to ready itself now for the opening up of the domestic power market.
Page 26

Undercurrents

British insurers are locked in a cut-throat battle for market share which could result in small or medium-sized companies withdrawing hurt or being swallowed up, Independent Insurance said yesterday.
Page 31

Storehouse to build up its foreign legion

STOREHOUSE, the Bhs to Mothercare group, has revealed plans to open stores in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Moscow, Brunei and Manila as part of an overseas expansion programme involving 50 new stores within the next 12 months (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The retailer has reached a franchise agreement with AS Watson, the retail division of Hutchison Whampoa, to develop Bhs in the Far East. The first two stores to open will be in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The deal forms part of Storehouse's plans to expand its overseas franchise operations to more than 200 over the next 12 months. Keith Edelman, chairman, said: "By the end of next year our international business should be approaching 10 per cent of group turnover and we expect to see this proportion continuing to grow strongly."

In May, Storehouse is to open its first Bhs franchise in Moscow and its third Mothercare franchise. At the same time, the group will open its first Mothercare stores in Brunei and Manila.

Tesco expands in Eastern Europe

By Sarah Bagnall

TESCO, the supermarket group, has made its boldest move into Eastern Europe with the purchase of businesses in the Czech Republic and Slovakia for £77 million.

Tesco is acquiring from the Kmart Corporation almost 100 per cent of the equity of Kmart CR and Kmart SR, which together comprise 13 stores with total sales space of a million square feet.

The stores, of which six are in Hungary, generate annual sales of about £140 million, of which about two thirds are non-food. Kmart acquired the two businesses in 1992 as part of the countries' privatisation programmes.

The deal, subject to certain conditions, should be completed next month.

The acquisitions form part of Tesco's strategy of seeking opportunities for expansion in the developing markets of Central Europe. It already has a presence in Hungary and Poland through a 74 per cent stake in Global and a 96 per cent holding in Savia. In 1994, Tesco paid an estimated £20 million for the holding in Global, the Hungarian operation with 45 outlets, and, last year, it paid £8 million for the stake in Savia, the Polish chain with 36 stores.

Tesco said that the latest acquisitions provided it with a good platform from which it could expand in Eastern Europe, where the food retailing market is highly fragmented. The shares advanced 2p to 280½p.

The combined population of the four countries is 64 million. The Czech Republic has a population of about 10.3 million, while Slovakia's population is about 5.3 million. Tesco said that the Czech Republic's gross domestic product is forecast to grow at more than 4 per cent this year, while Slovakia's is forecast to grow at 5 per cent.

The Czech Republic is considered one of the most progressive in Eastern Europe and is the first in the region to apply for full membership of the European Union.

Tesco, which has 545 stores in the UK, also operates in France, having purchased Catteau for £150 million in June 1993. Catteau now comprises 110 stores.

Four-star look for the Great Eastern

By Alasdair Murray

THE City of London's only hotel, the Great Eastern, is to undergo a £30 million facelift after its lease yesterday to a consortium including Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur, British Land, the property company, and Arcadian International, the hotelier.

The hotel, situated next to Liverpool Street Station, will be let by Railtrack, the present owner, on a 125-year lease for a 5 per cent share of the turnover. The redeveloped hotel, which is expected to generate between £15 million and £20 million a year in revenue, will be an "extremely good" four-star with 260 bedrooms and specialist business and conference facilities.

The restoration of the Grade II listed building, which was opened in 1884, will be conducted by British Land, which also owns the nearby Broadgate complex, and Arcadian. Arcadian will assume operating control of the hotel facilities, while the hotel's three restaurants will be managed by Conran. Work is expected to commence later this year and is due to be finished in 1998. Sir Terence Conran will chair the design team.

The attraction for Sir Terence is the ground floor restaurant, which will provide the owner of Quaglino's and the recently opened Mezzo restaurants with a toehold in the City dining market. The hotel's former ballroom has already been franchised out to J D Wetherspoon, the pub operator.

British Land, which recently acquired the remaining 50 per cent stake in the Broadgate centre, said it hoped the Great Eastern would form an integral part of the complex.

Robert Breare, chief executive of Arcadian, said: "The listed exterior architecture, combined with Sir Terence Conran's distinctive style for the interior, will create one of Europe's most exciting hotels."

Arcadian also revealed that it had plans to develop the Malmaison chain in Newcastle, Manchester and Leeds. Shares in Arcadian rose 1p to 46p, while shares in British Land remained unchanged at 393p.

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Diamonds sparkling says De Beers

By Colin Campbell

THE British. diamond producer De Beers is more than pleased to note. are resuming their love affair with diamonds.

Last year, retail gem diamond sales in the UK rose by 7 per cent. In France, gem sales were 11 per cent higher, in Korea sales were 10 per cent up, and America's retail gem market recorded a 7 per cent advance.It was only Canada, Taiwan and Mexico where markets were seriously lower.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of De Beers, admitting that 1995 had been a difficult trading market, was thus in a confident mood yesteray when announcing December 31 year end results.

De Beers' attributable earnings were 11.4 per cent higher at $624 million, and equity accounted earnings rose by 18.4 per cent to $986 million.

In recognition of stronger profits, De Beers' total dividend for 1995 is rising from 84.4 cents to 92.9 cents a share, covered 1.77 times.

To date, 1996 has been "so far, so good". After 18 months of difficult and tough negotiations, De Beers and Russia recently signed a new memorandum which, the Russian government hopes, will lead to a three year marketing contract being formalised before the end of March.

Nicky Oppenheimer, De Beers' deputy chairman, admitted a contingency plan had been drawn up in the event that the Russians had broken away, but he was "very happy and very pleased" that final agreement had been reached.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	16.90	15.40
Belgium Fr	49.44	45.14
Canada $	2.198	2.038
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.56	6.91
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	390.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1400	4.4900
Italy Lira	2479.00	2324.00
Japan Yen	174.90	158.90
Malta	0.582	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.684	2.454
New Zealand $	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.42	9.62
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	6.44	5.64
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.25
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	refer.	97000.0
USA $	1.625	1.495

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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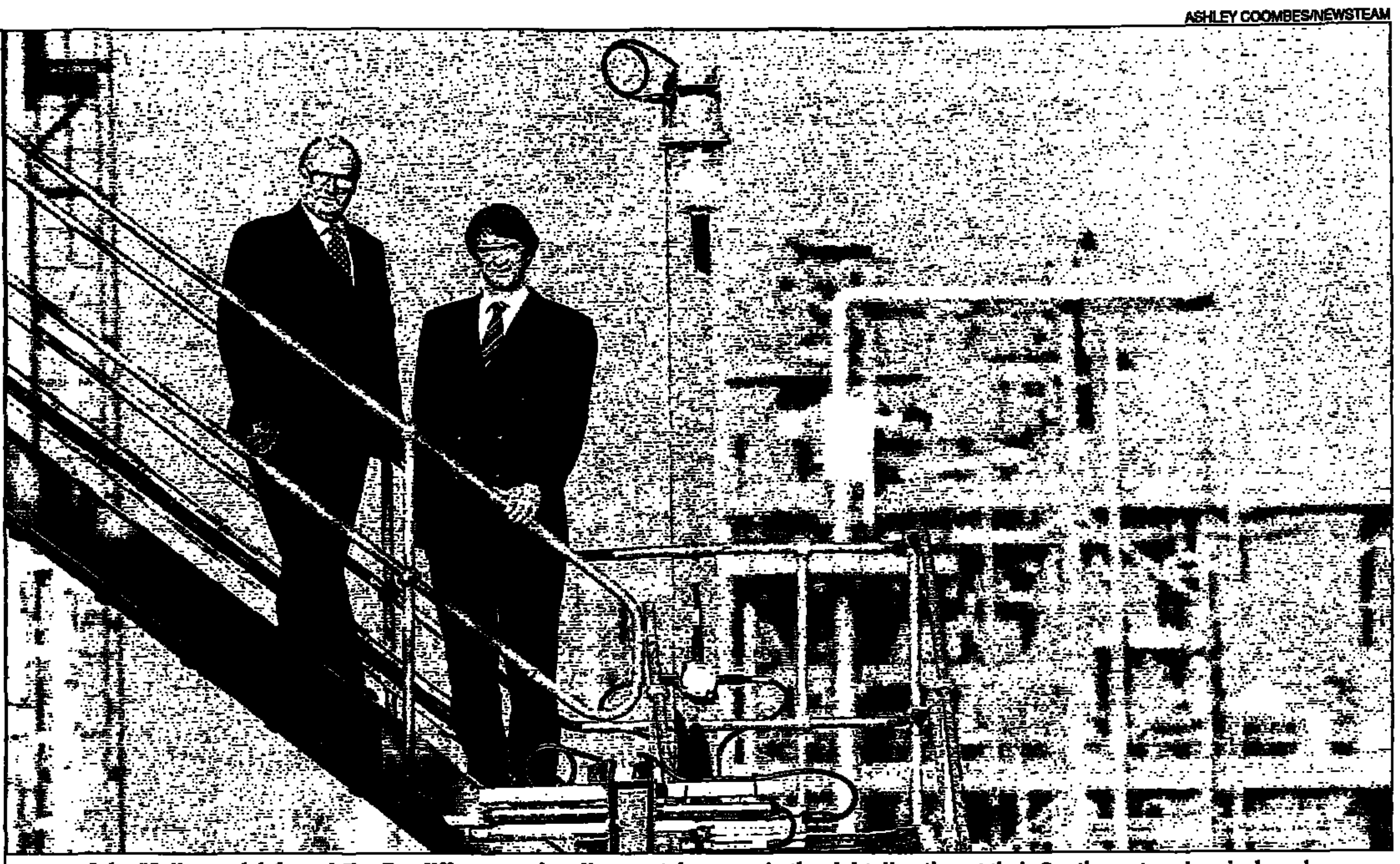


John Hollowood, left, and Jim Ratcliffe, managing director, take a step in the right direction at their Southampton chemical works

Eggar turns up the heat on electricity industry

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government will today warn Britain's electricity industry that it should avoid the mistakes of the UK's gas industry in preparing for competition and start to prepare itself now for the opening up of the domestic power market.

Electricity industry leaders will be told to "put up or shut up" on the introduction of competition in the industry and to ensure now that they have the necessary capability to take advantage of the opening of the electricity market in two years' time.

In a hard-hitting speech at a conference in London, Tim Eggar, Minister for Energy and Industry, will urge the industry to be ready for the start of full competition.

Some industry leaders will view his statement as a coded warning to Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry's regulator, to ensure that the probably more difficult process of electricity competition runs more smoothly than the introduction of even pilot competition in the domestic gas market.

Against a background of some consumer complaint, the pilot for open domestic gas markets is finally due to start on April 29 in the test area of the South West.

Gas analysts judge the Government and the industry both to be responsible for the difficulties in introducing competition in gas. In a statement likely to prompt some scepticism, Mr Eggar is expected to tell electricity leaders that the introduction of gas competition has been a "bit rockier" than the Government thought it would be.

He will make clear the Government's hopes that the electricity industry will reflect on the lessons learnt from gas, and he will urge the industry to "get its act together" well in advance of the electrcity start date.

Mr Eggar is expected to tell today's conference: "Now is the time — just do it." He will say that the industry has a responsibility to develop the systems, provide the resources and ensure it has available the experience necessary for competition.

Industry leaders are likely to be told that they no longer have available the "luxury" of debating "trifling" points about competition, nor the ability to complain subsequently about its organisation because they were not paying attention now. He is expected to say: "Now is the time to make a big jump between planning and delivery — put up or shut up."

Mr Eggar will emphasise the Government's firm commitment to opening up the electricity market because of the increased efficiency and benefits to consumers and the industry that competition will bring.

VSEL returns to merchant fold with £15m contract

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

VSEL, the Barrow-in-Furness warship builder, has won its first merchant ship contract for almost 25 years. The yard, owned by the General Electric Company (GEC), has been chosen to build two 4,500-tonne petrol and aviation fuel tankers by James Fisher and Sons, the quoted Barrow ship operator, under a £14.75 million contract.

Brian George, chief executive of GEC Marine, asked to quote for the order after learning of Fisher's plans to replace two of its five small tankers. David Cobb, chairman of Fisher, said that VSEL had beaten off bids from rival yards in Europe and the United States, which were comparable on price. Cheaper offers from Far East yards were offset by the added costs of supervision and bringing the ships to European waters.

The achievement is all the more remarkable because VSEL is listed by the European Commission as a warship yard, and barred from seeking government subsidies.

The company has not built a merchant ship since it completed the cruise liner *Odessa* in 1974. But the tankers will be relatively complex ships to build, embodying double-hulls to meet the latest Lloyd's Register requirements.

Fisher, which operates 13 ships of its own and manages six nuclear fuel and waste transporters owned by BNFL, the state reprocessing group, is quoted on a matched-bargain basis. In 1994, it recovered from a £5.63 million loss to make a pre-tax profit of £2.28 million.

Inspec finds winning formula

By Martin Barrow

INSPEC GROUP enjoyed a sharp rise in profits for 1995 and said that demand for its speciality chemicals remained firm in the current year.

The company, formed through the management buyout of the speciality chemicals interests of BP and floated on the stock market in 1994, is to buy the polymide fibres business of Lenzing AG in Austria for £5.7 million.

Inspec profits rose to £31.1 million before tax, from £13.3 million last year. This reflected the £78.2 million purchase of BP Antwerp, now renamed Inspec Belgium, which was financed through a rights issue.

The latest acquisition comprises Lenzing's P84 high performance polymide fibres business, whose products have high temperature applications, such as fire-fighting apparel. Last year, the business earned operating profits of £300,000.

Inspec is paying a final dividend of 4p a share, which lifts the total dividend 50 per cent to 6p, from earnings of 20.68p (12.11p). The shares rose 10p to 380p, compared with the flotation price of 160p in March 1994.

John Hollowood, chairman, said: "With current demand remaining firm, we are well placed to build on the considerable success which the group has achieved."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

CBI backs Clarke on single currency

BUSINESS leaders gave warning yesterday that longer-term interest rates could be higher if Britain remained outside a single European currency. The acknowledgement by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) — which will today call for a rational debate on Europe — is in line with similar views from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, told a House of Lords committee that the UK did not have to decide whether to take part in economic and monetary union until the middle of next year. But in a carefully balanced view of the benefits and disadvantages of EMU, he said that if the UK decided not to join, financial markets might demand an interest rate premium as insurance against the risk of currency devaluation and higher inflation. He said: "I think it's a fact that if we stay outside of the single currency it's highly likely that we would have somewhat higher long-term interest rates for quite a period of time."

Trafalgar value rise

SBC WARBURG, the merchant bank that advised Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group on its successful £900 million takeover of Trafalgar House, was valuing Trafalgar at less than half that price just weeks before the bid. An analyst research note distributed in early February valued Trafalgar at 21p a share in contrast to the 50p a share that Kvaerner actually paid. Warburg emphasised that the valuation was based on a forced sale or break-up situation and significantly underestimated the value of the engineering and construction businesses to a rival company like Kvaerner.

European IT recovers

EUROPE'S information and communication technology industry is making a strong recovery from a three-year slump and, for the first time, will grow faster than its rivals in the US and Japan, a study indicated yesterday. The annual report by the European Information Technology Observatory group showed a 1995 increase in the computer and telecommunications market in Europe of 8.1 per cent to reach $389 billion. Annual growth in the 1995-97 period is expected to top 8.7 per cent in Europe, compared with 6.5 per cent in the US and 6.1 per cent in Japan, the study indicated.

Business failures rise

BUSINESS failures grew 11 per cent to 181 in February, against 161 in January, Deloitte & Touche, the accountant and management consultant, reported yesterday. However, Ralph Preece, partner in charge of corporate recovery, said the figures were relatively stable compared with last year and reinforced a decreasing trend. In February last year, 176 firms went into receivership or had an administrator appointed. The largest increase in business failures was seen in the transport and communications sector, followed by hotel & catering, retailing and construction.

Universities beat Serco

SERCO GROUP has lost out to a consortium of universities in a bid to take over the Natural Resources Institute, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Foreign Office Minister, announced yesterday. The Government instead chose a grouping of Edinburgh and Greenwich Universities, Imperial College of Science and Technology and Wye College of London University as the preferred bidder. Serco's bid was in association with the University of Wales. The institute works primarily for Britain's foreign aid programme, helping developing countries to exploit their natural resources more efficiently.

Six Britons arrested

SIX British citizens were among 200 people arrested worldwide as part of Operation Green Ice, an undercover exercise to expose the illegal financial dealings of the Cali mafia family. A leading US law enforcement officer has acknowledged the help of overseas authorities, including the UK's National Criminal Intelligence Service and the Cayman Islands, in evidence to the House of Representatives. Seven of the Cali's top money managers were among those arrested, together with more than $50 million in cash and property which was seized in a series of raids.

Greenspan growth hope

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, yesterday said the American economy has moved closer to maximum sustainable growth, the fastest the economy can grow without increasing inflation. Many economists now put that rate at about 2.25 per cent. Mr Greenspan said: "We have made significant and fundamental gains in macroeconomic performance in recent years that enhance the prospects for maximum sustainable economic growth." He said the statistics may underestimate the growth rate because of the difficulty in measuring advances in productivity.

Finelist interim rises

FINELIST GROUP, the distributor of replacement part vehicles with 199 outlets across the country, lifted first-half profits by 34 per cent and said it was pleased with second-half trading, despite the tough retail environment. In the six months to December 31, profits rose to £4.05 million before tax from £3.02 million last time. Turnover advanced to £52.6 million from £43.9 million. Earnings were 8.2p a share (6.6p). The interim dividend rises to 1.9p a share from 1.7p. The shares rose 7p to 277p.

Jobs 'no longer for life'

By Marianne Curphey

COMPETITIVE pressures and the legacy of the pensions mis-selling scandal will lead to a further 10,000 job losses in the life insurance industry over the next two years, it was claimed yesterday.

An estimated 10 per cent of the workforce may be cut, with administrative "backroom" staff worst affected, according to Standard & Poor's, the credit-rating agency. The number of sales representatives will continue to fall after having declined from 200,000 to 80,000 in the past few years.

S&P is predicting a shakeout among life companies, including a number of mergers and acquisitions. It has reduced its ratings on many insurers, including Clerical Medical, down from AA- to A plus, and Scottish Provident, from AA plus to AA-. Clerical Medical said the rerating was "puzzling".

Rob Jones, associate director of S&P, said UK life insurers faced "a long-term downward trend in underlying financial strength because of high expenses, annual bonus payments and the cost of compensating people who were mis-sold personal pensions." The cost of compensation is estimated at between £1 billion and £4 billion.

The market would remain tough for companies until the government specifically encouraged the public to make their own provision for long-term health care and pensions, he said. The key issues facing the life industry were the need to cut costs, invest in new techology and improve distribution.

BT market share 'must be cut'

By Eric Reguly

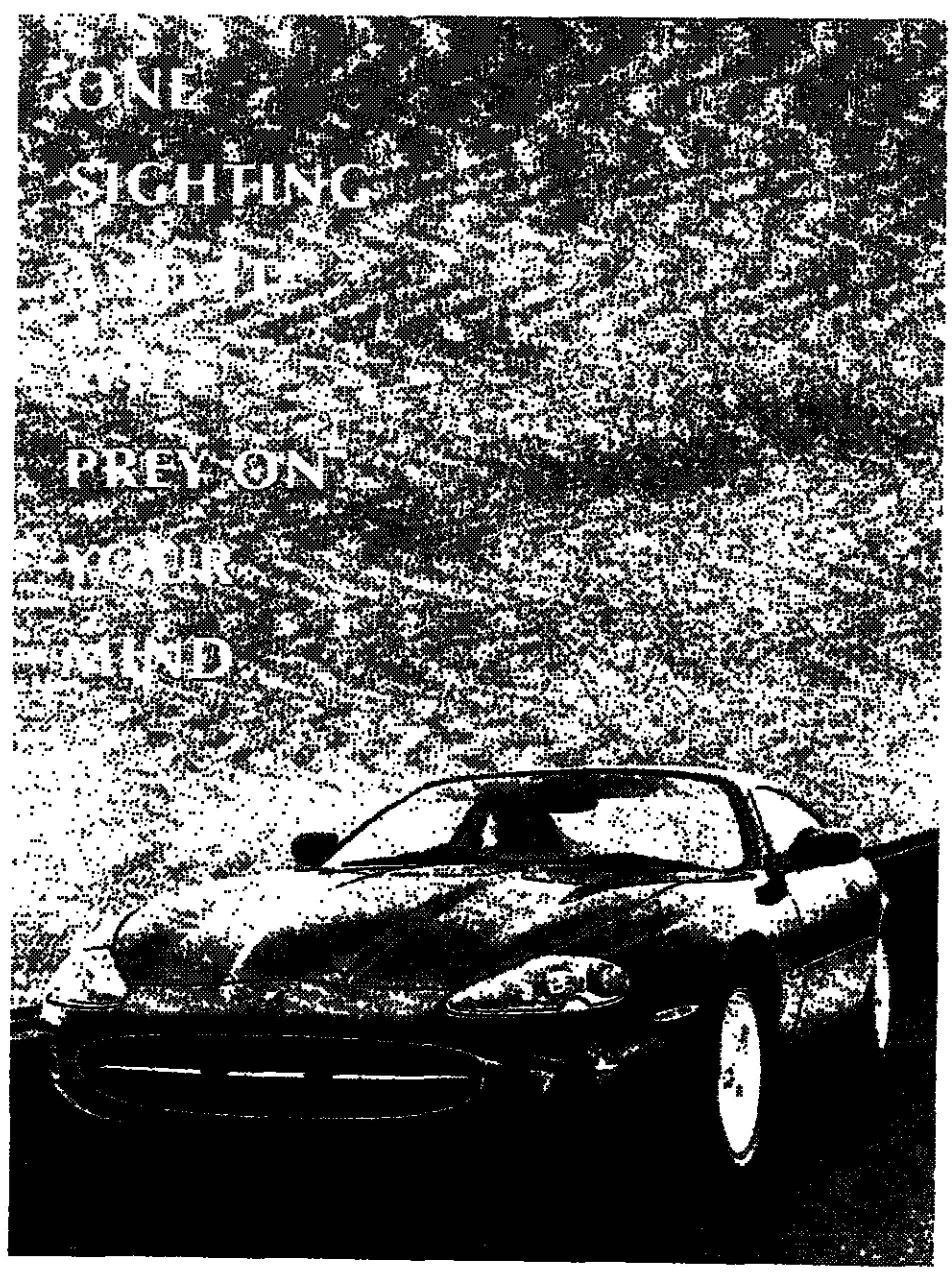
PRICES for phone services in Britain will decline at a slow rate unless British Telecom, the dominant operator, is forced to lose more market share, a telecommunications study concluded yesterday.

National Utility Services, an international research firm that examines utilty prices, said that strong competition, not regulation, has proven to be the most effective way of driving down prices. It said that, paradoxically, the price controls imposed on BT by Oftel, the telecoms regulator, are not in the consumers' best interests because they stifle competition.

NUS said: "The telecoms giant can absorb lower prices dictated by price restrictions, but its rivals, who must follow suit and drop prices in order to stay competitive, are unable to sustain the reduction in revenue as their margins become eroded." Energis, the telecoms subsidiary of the National Grid, and the cable companies were cited as examples of telecoms services that have been unable to gain much market share because of the regulatory regime. Twelve years after privatisation, BT still controls about 90 per cent of the market.

In its latest survey, NUS found that prices in Britain for local, national and international calls continued to fall, with international prices experiencing the biggest decline. Of the 10 countries surveyed, only Canada had cheaper international rates.

Rates for local calls, however, continue to be relatively high. Britain ranked fifth in this category: France, Italy, Sweden, the US and Canada all had cheaper tariffs. In line rentals, Britain was the fourth-cheapest.



At the Geneva Motor Show this week, a few lucky observers caught a glimpse of the new Jaguar XK8 for the first time. The many who couldn't be there should call 0800 70 80 60. We'll send you a unique XK8 screensaver* and put you in line for further Jaguar information (as soon as more of them are spotted). *Available in PC or Apple Mac format.

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DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS
UNITED KINGDOM CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 7 February 1996, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R5.9727 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 4 March 1996, as advised by the companies' South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:

Name of Company (All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Dividend No.	Amount per share (pence)
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	146	6.69714p
Vogelstruisbult Metal Holdings Limited	98	5.86000p

By order of the boards
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretaries
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar:
Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited
Greencoat House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

5 March 1996

GOLD FIELDS GROUP

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هكذا من الاجل

☐ Options for change at the Stock Exchange ☐ BA takes aim at rail link ☐ MMC set to demand bid conditions

Adrift in Throgmorton Street

☐ COMPUTERS have the eccentric logic of the village idiot. So the Stock Exchange's formal analysis of answers to its questionnaire on electronic order-driven trading systems, out this morning, could come up with almost anything.

The Exchange's consultation paper, insiders may recall, presumed it was inevitable that the dealing system defined in the 1986 Big Bang would be duplicated or abandoned. The pathetically flawed human brain noticed two *leitmotivs* in nearly nine score responses. Neither was quite what Michael Lawrence, the Exchange's short-lived chief executive, had in mind.

One was sheer amazement that the Exchange's proposals did not include the option of sticking with the system that has built London into such a strong position in stock trading. The second was disbelief that the isolated denizens of Throgmorton Street had set a timetable for fundamental reform simply to coincide with access to an electronic trading facility, which is due to be available in August. Opinions vary widely on the ultimate goal, but few understand the hurry.

Something fundamental did emerge however. There was a hectic lobbying battle between different commercial interests on the Exchange. But the market's customers were largely unconcerned. Among fund managers, the dominant client group, apathy was rampant and ill-concealed. The issue is almost entirely an internal one, with academic regulators playing an unhelpful role from the sidelines.

John Kemp-Welch, the Exchange's phlegmatic chairman, would be wise to shelve the proposals *sine die* with Mr Lawrence's name attached to them. Such damage limitation will only be worthwhile, however, if he or others conduct a fundamental rethink.

Exchange rivalries have festered in the absence of leadership. Mr Lawrence could only have been left to come up with his half-baked reform plan because the Exchange has suffered a gulping drain of confidence following its loss of status under the Financial Services Act and its loss of credibility after the fiasco over Taurus, the doomed electronic settlement system.

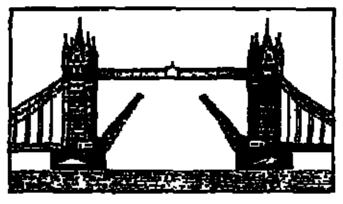
Rather than allow itself to be squeezed between the Office of Fair Trading, the querulous Securities and Investments Board and its own warring factions, the Exchange's board should take a look at what is happening on Wall Street.

The New York Stock Exchange, once in a far worse pickle, has reasserted itself by a process of professional development. It has put the accent on continuous evolution, on improvement through investment and marketing, rather than on change for its own sake.

After handing power to two dynamic reforming chief executives, Exchange directors should ask why they have no faith in themselves. If they can find no good answer, they should make way for others.

On a wing and a prayer

PENNINGTON



☐ ROBERT AYLING, British Airways' combative chief executive, was in fine fettle yesterday. His staff were treated to a real morale-booster — "We probably have too many managers," he reflected. Now won't that do wonders for their productivity?

But Mr Ayling soon got down to the real business. BA, scourge of unprofitable, over-financed airlines across Europe, is taking aim at what it sees as a lame duck closer to home, the consortium awarded the fast rail link to the Channel Tunnel.

BA's beef is with the £1.4 billion, or whatever figure you believe, of state aid that is to fund the project. The world's favourite airline says this might contravene European competition regulations regarding state aid for transport projects.

BA has used the same route to challenge state aid to two other airlines, Air France and Iberia. Mr Ayling must know he is trying it on, but this should not detract from the amusement value of his remarks.

London & Continental Railways is to take over the Eurostar service, currently loss-making and costing the taxpayer money, and to build the track on which this will run. To help fund this the consortium is taking unquantified but probably substantial planning gains from redeveloping St Pancras station and other assets on the route.

Eurostar could operate profitably without the track — indeed, it must first do so, if the job is to go ahead at all. The new track is to provide a swift route to the Tunnel and a better service for Kent commuters.

Brussels has already crawled all over the deal and given its blessing, not least because European Investment Bank money is involved. The EU competition policy is designed to stop governments from propping up their loss-making national carriers. It is not aimed at stopping all public sector investment in transport, whether a fast Tunnel link or a signal box on the East Coast Main Line.

BA might find this objectionable *per se*, but it is a fact of the market in which it is required to operate. Or is BA's real problem that one Richard Branson's Virgin, bitter rival and courtroom foe, has a chunk of the consortium? Perish the thought.

Short-circuiting a power struggle

☐ A Monopolies and Mergers Commission decision to wave the two outstanding electricity bids through would not be a hard one to reach, given the precedent set by earlier mergers and the unanimity of view within the industry itself. Consumers can only hope the pre-conditions the MMC is likely to require are stringent enough.

The two deals are agreed, and there has been noticeably little interest from outsiders in breaking them up by mounting rival bids for Southern and Midlands. Bidder and target will have been singing from the same hymn-sheet to the Commission on this one, as will that small tranche of the industry not yet bid for. The latter have no interest in disrupting the marriages and sending share prices into reverse.

The two generators, National Power and PowerGen, are not going to balk at being required to dispose of any generating assets owned by the two regional distributors — they have, themselves, agreed the sale of 6,000 MW of their own plant. Once clearance is given, the MMC can return again if evidence of malpractice is laid before it.

The most important condition has to do with transparency, and the precedent is with the ScottishPower takeover of Manweb, which first mixed generation and distribution. The MMC required separate accounts to ensure the distributors' customers were not forced to take power at too high a price. A similar approach would cause few problems for the generators.

Party line

☐ SO LABOUR is to insert its own statement of policy into next month's Railtrack prospectus, to allow investors to make an informed choice. Taking charge is John Prescott — although we are assured the usual tortuous Prescott prose style will not be used, so this section should be comprehensible to investors even if the rest of the document is not. The current policy is to have Railtrack "publicly owned" but not "renationalised". Hmm. Doubtless the distinction will become clear in time.

Harry Sheridan reckons CRH can maintain its current level of investment without asking shareholders for new funds

CRH sounds warning as profits surge 38%

By Carl Mortished

CRH, the Irish building materials group, said that a slowdown in mainland Europe would affect earnings in the current year. Dramatic growth in Ireland and solid gains in the US and on the Continent produced a 38 per cent profits surge to Ir£160 million for 1995 despite the impact of flooding and cold weather in the Benelux region.

Don Godson, CRH's chief executive, said that economic prospects in Ireland remained favourable but the German market was looking weak. "It would be unrealistic to expect a continuation of the 30 per cent-plus increases of the past two excellent years," he said. "Nevertheless we anticipate a further year of progress underpinned by strategic acquisitions and new investments."

CRH is raising the dividend 12 per cent to Ir9.1p for 1995, covered 3.9 times by earnings of Ir35.55p, up 35 per cent. The company invested Ir£215 million over the 12 months, including Ir£129 million on acquisitions, a level of investment which Harry Sheridan, finance director, reckons can be maintained without calling on shareholders for new funds.

In the UK, CRH is rapidly expanding its Keyline builders merchants. It has acquired 26 branches, talking the chain to 100, and plans to increase the number to 200 outlets. CRH has secured a toehold in the expanding Polish market, buying 40 per cent of a cement manufacturer with a 15 per cent market share.

The Irish construction boom continued in 1995. Fuelled by the growth in new housing and increased demand for cement, CRH's profits in its home market grew from Ir£36.8 million to £48.1 million. Overall volumes were 11 per cent up on the previous year but Mr Sheridan predicted a slowing down this year. "We expect the strong markets to continue, not at the double digit rate but at the 4-5 per cent range for the next few years."

Mr Godson said the end of the IRA ceasefire could set back tourist-related construction development throughout Ireland but paradoxically, he pointed out, the peace had a negative impact in Northern Ireland due to the lack of security-related construction.

A slump in housing starts in Britain affected profits, reducing the UK contribution from £18 million to £16.9 million. On the Continent, the German construction boom began to slow in the second half while flooding affected Dutch and Belgian operations early in the year with heavy frost disrupting construction in December.

Mr Godson said he expected plenty of acquisition opportunities in the US, where profits advanced from Ir£33 million to Ir£58 million despite low overall construction output of 1 per cent in 1995.

Tempus, page 28

Clothes chain sold by M&S in Canada

MARKS & SPENCER has reduced further its presence in Canada with the sale of D'Allairds Stores, a chain of 85 clothes shops, to Comark (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The disposal will result in a £25 million exceptional charge against full-year profits. Of this, £10 million relates to the write-back of goodwill previously written off, while the balance of £15 million includes the cost of write-offs and other provisions. The news came after the official stock market close, and the shares stayed at 436p.

M&S said the sale would enable its Canadian management to concentrate solely on the group's 50 M&S stores. Last year, the M&S and D'Allairds businesses notched up combined sales of £73.9 million and operating losses of £600,000.

Scottish Television plays down talk of takeover

By Eric Reguly

SCOTTISH TELEVISION played down speculation yesterday that the Mirror Group, which owns 20 per cent of the ITV company, will mount a takeover offer as the industry consolidates ahead of the passage of the Broadcasting Bill.

Scottish Television noted that the Bill would prevent the Mirror, which has more than 20 per cent of both the national newspaper market and the regional market in Scotland, where it publishes the *Daily Record* and the *Sunday Mail*, from controlling an ITV company. Gus Macdonald, managing director, said he thinks it unlikely that the Mirror could obtain exemptions on both restrictions.

Shares of Scottish Television, which closed up 3p to 672p, have been rising on takeover rumours.

The speculation gained momentum recently when Flextech, the American-controlled broadcaster that owns 20 per cent of Scottish Television, made it known that it was not necessarily a long-term investor.

Macdonald: record profits

Scottish Television reported record pre-tax profits of £20.2 million (£2 million) in the year to December 31. The 1994 figure includes a £7.5 million loss on the disposal of Alternative International, its outplacement subsidiary.

Operating profits more than doubled to £18.7 million on turnover that fell 15 per cent to £100.5 million because of the disposal of Alternative, and lower drama sales. Earnings per share were 22.7p against a loss of 3.78p. The final dividend of 12.25p will bring the total dividend to 16.25p, up 15 per cent.

Scottish Television also announced that it has signed a $10 million deal with Hallmark Entertainment, a Flextech shareholder, to produce six movies in Scotland this year.

The company added that it was proceeding with plans to launch a "Tartan" cable channel by the end of 1996.

Tempus, page 28

Trial boost for British Biotech

By Eric Reguly

SHARES of British Biotech gained 272p to £23.20 yesterday after the biotechnology company, the country's largest, announced that its treatment for acute pancreatitis had been approved by America's Food and Drug Administration for late-stage trials.

The treatment, called Lexipafant, has entered so-called phase 3 trials in the US, after successful phase 1 and 2 trials in Britain. The company said that the 18-month effort, if successful, would support a new drug application.

British Biotech also announced the expansion of trials on its Marimastat oral anti-cancer drug. They are expected to lead to late-stage trials by the end of this year.

The company reported a loss of £4.1 million in the quarter to January 31. It lost £5.6 million in the same period a year ago. The lower loss followed a £4 million payment from Glaxo Wellcome, which is sponsoring the development of British Biotech's arthritis drug.

Ian Rock, right, and Patrick Hooper, finance director

European Leisure rises

A NEWLY opened chain of pool halls helped European Leisure to a 30 per cent rise in half-year profits to £2.2 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

The company welcomed proposed gaming deregulation moves which it said would improve the position further next year. In January it was forced to issue a profits warning after its Christmas takings were hit by Sunday dancing restrictions.

Overall turnover increased 14 per cent to £36.7 million. The entertainment and snooker division saw profits up 3.8 per cent to £3.6 million, spearheaded by the Riley's American pool lounges. Maygay, the fruit machine subsidiary, increased profits by 68 per cent to £700,000.

Ian Rock, chief executive, predicted an improved performance for the full year and said that the interest burden had been reduced. Net gearing was 91 per cent (99.5 per cent). There is no dividend but the company said dividend policy would be reviewed. Shares were static at 167p.

TDG plans continued expansion

By Philip Pangalos

TRANSPORT Development Group, the distribution and hire company, accompanied a 7 per cent rise in annual pre-exceptional profits with plans for further expansion through selective acquisitions and organic growth.

TDG, which has been undergoing widespread reorganisation in recent years, saw pre-tax profits rise to £36.1 million in the year to December 31, on turnover up 4.5 per cent to £510 million.

Martin Llowarch, chairman, said the rate of growth in the current year will depend on new business wins and strategic developments. Acquisitions are set to involve bolt-on deals, with the industrial division the most likely area for expansion.

There is a maintained final dividend of 6.5p, payable on May 3, giving an unchanged total of 9.5p for the year. Adjusted earnings rose 6 per cent to 15.8p a share. Gearing stood at 6 per cent. TDG shares added 3p to 216p.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Money strategy gives shares a bumpy ride

THE interest rate bandwagon continued to rumble on, with share prices on the London stock market, at one stage, hitting an all-time trading high. They failed to hold on to their best gains, however, as stories began circulating that the January money supply measure, M3, is about to be revised sharply higher.

The FT-SE 100 index saw its lead cut to 8.5 points by the close at 3,777.1, having touched a new intra-trading high of 3,792.5.

Traders remain confident that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will signal a quarter-point cut at their monthly economic meeting tomorrow . The base rate is currently 6.25 per cent, a full point above the level seen two years ago.

Vodafone, the mobile telephone operator, rose another 6p to 246p, stretching its lead on the week to 11½p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, reiterated its buy stance. *Hoare is said to have raised its "sum of the parts" valuation* by 20p to 300p, with the group's international operations expected to move into profit next year. Other brokers are suggesting that Vodafone's rating will also benefit from the forthcoming flotation of rival Orange.

There was revived institutional support for **Hanson**, with the price adding 1p to 191½p as 11.3 million shares changed hands. Much of the support came from the US, where investors are taking a close interest in the proposed demerger.

There was also talk in London that Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is about to publish a bullish review of the company after increasing its break-up value from 195p to 225p a share.

A sharp rise in the number of passengers carried during February lifted **British Airways** 17p to 534p. Passenger revenues grew 13.4 per cent, the biggest rise since April last year. A total of six million shares were traded.

Reports that Ministry of Defence police last week raided the offices of **Tarmac** in Wolverhampton, London and Glasgow saw the shares touch 112½p before finishing 3p lower at 119p. It follows allegations of financial irregularities relating to the Coulport nuclear armaments depot on the Clyde being made ready for the Trident submarine fleet.

Eurotunnel was steady at 81p, with news of a sharp jump in shuttle traffic during February coming after the official close of business. The number of tourist vehicles carried surged 21 per cent, with sharp gains also reported in other categories.

Storehouse, the BhS and Mothercare stores group, jumped 11p to 329p after revealing plans to open 50 new stores worldwide during the next year. It forms part of a link-up with the retailing arm of Hutchison Whampoa in the Far East.

Scottish Television has thrown down the gauntlet to any would-be predators and says it intends to cling on to its independence. It emerged after Scottish announced an increase in pre-tax profits last year from £2 million to £20 million. The group says it has the backing of its two biggest shareholders, **Mirror Group**, 3p easier at 214p, and **Flextech**, 1p lighter at 524p, which between them control 40 per cent of the shares. **Scottish** rose 3p to 672p.

Andrew Flanigan, finance director at Scottish, refused to comment on whether the group intended to hit the acquisition trail itself and increase its 20 per cent holding in **HTV Group**, up 4p at 380p.

It had been thought that Scottish may find itself on the receiving end of a bid from **Carlton Communications**, 1p lower at 428p, following the merger between **MAI**, 1p firmer at 412p, and **United News & Media**, 1p dearer at 642p.

Another spectacular performance from **Metal Bulletin**, the specialist publisher and conference organiser, sent the shares soaring 80p to a new all-time high of 773p. Pre-tax profits last year leapt 30 per cent to £4.2 million, with similar gains for both dividends and earnings. At the last count Metal Bulletin had £11.7 million in the bank. Trevor Tarring, chairman, said the group was now on the lookout for acquisitions.

This will come as good news for **Emap**, 1p better at 585p, which bought a 20 per cent stake some years ago and is now sitting on a profit of almost 600p a share.

There seems to be no stopping **British Biotechnology** as its shares came within a whisker of its all-time high with a leap of 272p to £23.20 despite announcing fresh losses. The third-quarter deficit was down from £5.6 million to £4 million, spreading the loss, to date, to £15 million against £17.8 million for the corresponding period. The group says it hopes to start marketing the first of its portfolio of drugs late next year, at the earliest.

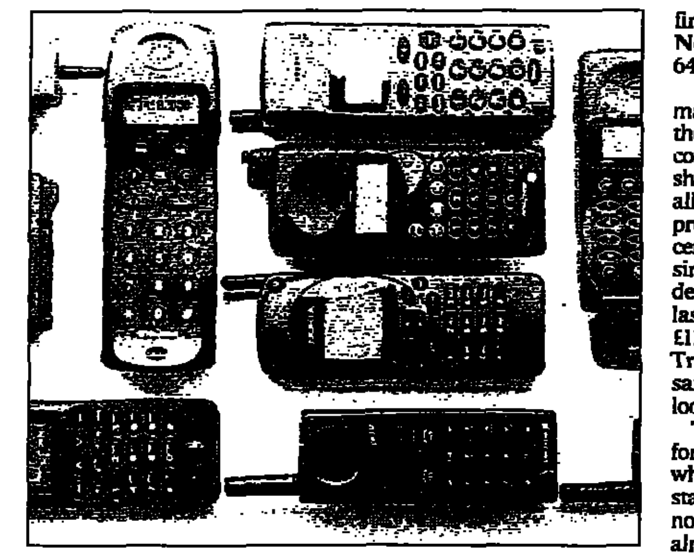
A profits warning left **Park Foods** 5p lower at 79p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices fell back across a wide front as a reaction set in ahead of tomorrow's monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George. Brokers say the expected quarter-point cut in rates to 6 per cent is already in the price. Renewed weakness in both US Treasury bonds and German bunds provided the signal for a bout of profit taking. Sentiment was also dented by publication of the latest US durable goods numbers and suggestions that the January M3 number is about to be revised sharply upwards.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt fell £½ to £107$\frac{3}{32}$ as the total number of contracts completed reached 62,000.

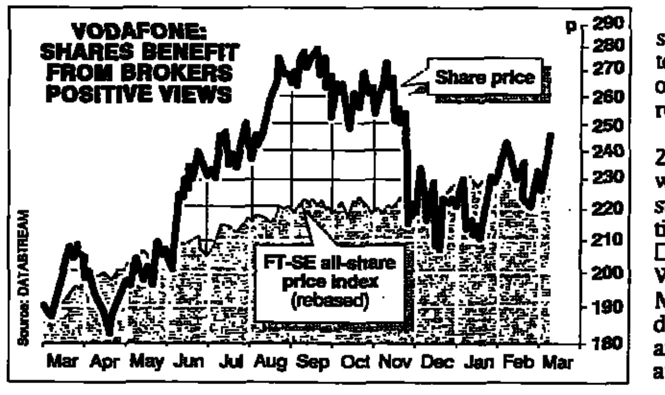
In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £$\frac{7}{16}$ lower at £98⅞, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed a tick at £103$\frac{13}{16}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Trading on Wall Street was subdued after Monday's gains and by midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 8.31 points lower at 5,591.84.



Phone wars saw Vodafone rise 6p on broker forecasts

BAA, the independent airport operator, jumped 18p to 516p after a profit upgrading by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker. Laing has raised its forecast for the current year by £20 million to £465 million and for 1997 by £23 million to £515 million. It says the net retail spend per passenger is set to rise sharply.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5591.84 (-8.31)
S&P Composite 649.68 (-1.13)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20183.87 (+119.99)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11454.08 (+200.03)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 519.18 (+0.13)

Sydney:
AO 2308.0 (-15.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2479.03 (-8.96)

Singapore:
Straits 2432.38 (+10.10)

Brussels:
General 8943.94 (+34.70)

Paris:
CAC-40 2001.94 (-13.37)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 745.90 (-3.90)

London:
FT 30 2807.9 (+16.6)
FT 100 3777.1 (+8.5)
FT-SE Mid 250 4272.2 (+27.3)
FT-SE-A 350 1889.0 (+5.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1588.41 (+1.39)
FT A All-Share 1864.59 (+5.76)
FT Non Financials 1972.24 (+6.74)
FT Fixed Interest 112.15 (+0.01)
FT Govt Secs 93.86 (-0.04)
Bargains 37617
SEAQ Volume 863.0m
USM (Datastrm) 207.26 (+0.25)
US$ 1.5281 (+0.0003)
German Mark 2.2593 (+0.0037)
Exchange Index 83.6 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1930
£:SDR 1.0436
RPI 150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	525	+ 13
Ballynatray	6	+ ½
Clubhaus (75)	6	...
Clubhaus Wts	3¼	...
Dmatek	63	...
Ex-Lands Props	12	...
Ex-Lands Wts	8½	...
Freepages (12)	15½	+ ½
IOC Intl	125	...
Nthrn Prtlm Wts	8	...
Optical Care (B)	68	- 2
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	50	...
Shire Pharms (175)	206	+ 2
SkyePharma B Wts	8¼	+ ¼
Streamline (180)	180	- 3

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashtead n/p (152)	11	- 1
Farnell Uts n/p (540)	77	+ 5
Headlam n/p (185)	32	...
IAF n/p (10)	1½	...
Innovative n/p (70)	33	...
Lookers n/p (125)	1½	...
Persimmon n/p (155)	23	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Thomson Corp 975p (+40p)
Regent Inns 920p (+35p)
BAA 516p (+18p)
BICC 326p (+11p)
Storehouse 329p (+11p)
Br Airways 534p (+17p)
Delta 421p (+13p)
More O'Ferrall 544p (+16p)
Vitec 736p (+21p)
Kingfisher 534p (+14p)
Sothebys 980p (+22p)
Low & Bonar 559p (+12p)
Vendome 573p (+12p)
Metal Bulletn 773p (+80p)
Carpetright 495p (+12p)

FALLS:
FS Cons 564½p (-53p)
Mitel 368p (-8p)
Nat Aust Bk 617p (-10p)
Broken Hill 946p (-12p)
Capital Radio 661p (-8p)
Real Time 257p (-9½p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Slow progress for CRH

CRH put on a long face yesterday and gave warning about the slowdown in continental Europe, with Germany's construction machine stuck in the sand. Even Ireland is set for slower growth, although a 5 per cent increase in construction activity in the Republic seems a frantic pace compared with Britain's continuing retreat. After increases of more than a third in profits and earnings in 1995, CRH can afford a more sedate advance this year.

The Irish company is something of a mystery; its unbroken record of dividend growth over the last 12 years seems at odds with its low profile in an industry dominated by corporate giants given to periodic (and generally disastrous) public takeovers. In fact, its reluctance to flash its chequebook has probably been its saving and conceals a high level of corporate activity — last year the company spent Ir£129 million on acquisitions and will probably do the same this year.

Typically, CRH buys family businesses, often courting the owners for several years before buying a large shareholding. The softly, softly approach to expansion means that CRH has avoided both the clash of corporate cultures that follows a big deal and the penalties of overpaying, a lesson that Redland has learned the hard way.

Despite the slowdown, CRH should manage a 15 per cent boost to earnings this year, a rate of growth that is not reflected in the share price, which is stuck on a sector average rating. In its home market, CRH has an 80 per cent share in the fastest growing building sector in Europe while maintaining limited exposure to Britain. That alone suggests it should be outperforming its UK rivals.

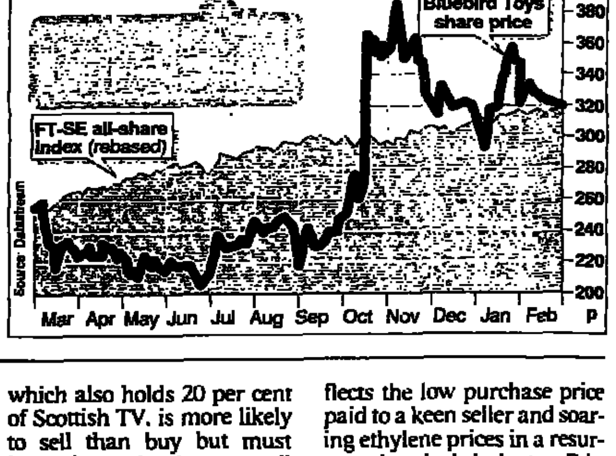
Bluebird Toys

A PROFITS setback at Bluebird Toys was long overdue. The demise of the company's Mighty Max monsters toys is to blame and a disappointment from its Mimi product range which failed to come up to expectations.

However, Bluebird's Polly Pocket miniature dolls continue to go from strength to strength and, after seven years, are the world's number two toy concept, behind the Barbie doll.

Bluebird has few uses for its £34 million cash pile — manufacturing is outsourced — and has decided to use £10 million for an earnings enhancing share buy back, which promises a risk-free 11.2 per cent return. Bluebird should also reap future reward from a host of new product ranges in the pipeline, including Batman and Spiderman, and a lucrative product development and marketing deal with the Walt Disney Company.

Analysts are looking for current year pre-tax profits to edge up to about £19 million, which would give earnings of 25.8p a share, putting Bluebird on an inexpensive price-earnings multiple of 12 times. The multiple drops to ten times once Bluebird's cash pile is stripped out, providing even better longer-term value, even without the potential benefits of a bid from either the two US toy giants. Hasbro retains a 6.7 per cent stake while Mattel has a long-standing and highly profitable arrangement to distribute Bluebird's toys in America.



Scottish TV

THE problem with Scottish Television is that it lacks a strategy for growth and in a market stirred into a frenzy by deregulation, that could be a fatal error. The company has £37 million in cash, but aside from new programming and plans to launch a tartan cable channel, the company lacks a convincing reason to hoard the cash. Yet, in spite of its resources, it is not big enough to make a significant acquisition.

The best hope for investors is that Scottish TV will be acquired at a hefty premium in a frenzy of industry consolidation before the introduction of the Broadcasting Act. Suitors, however, are not rushing to Glasgow to declare their intentions. Mirror Group, which owns 20 per cent of Scottish TV, is not a contender. It controls more than 20 per cent of both the national newspaper market as well as the regional market in Scotland. Flextech, which also holds 20 per cent of Scottish TV, is more likely to sell than buy but must leave its stake intact until mid-1997 unless approval is received from Scottish TV.

Granada, having put down a firm marker on Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, is otherwise engaged. That leaves Carlton, which has been quiet of late. Scottish TV shareholders would be unwise to sell at this stage in the game but cannot rely on a takeover in the short term.

Inspec

SO SPECTACULAR was Inspec's deal over the BP Antwerp operation that anything achieved by the chemicals group this year will pale in comparison. The ethylene oxide and glycol plants cost £78 million plus some £3 million for redundancies, but, in the nine months after the deal was sealed in March, Antwerp delivered £20 million in operating profit.

Such a rate of return reflects the low purchase price paid to a keen seller and soaring ethylene prices in a resurgent chemicals industry. Ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol are commodity chemicals, prone to boom and bust, but Inspec is going ahead with a 50 per cent capacity increase in Antwerp. However, all of the new capacity is forward contracted to customers with price clauses shielding Inspec from lows in exchange for giving up some of the peaks.

Growth this year will be less dramatic and the removal of bottlenecks in Antwerp will result in some disruption to production. The company also needs to bed down its fine chemical purchase in the US. Expenditure will remain high this year because of the plant upgrade, but Inspec has the potential to be a good cash generator; the company should achieve £40 million of profit this year, fully justifying its premium rating.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	870-868	May	991-990
May	894-893	Jul	unq
Jul	919-918	Sep	—
Sep	939-938	Dec	—
Dec	958-957		
Mar	978-977		Volume: 5930

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2000-1995	Nov	1710-1701
May	1838-1837	Jan	1690-1680
Jul	1770-1765	Mar	1670-1640
Sep	1735-1730		Volume: 2993

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	315.0-12.2
Spot: 397.3		Mar	311.6-08.5
May	378.4-77.8	May	308.5-05.5
Aug	358.8-58.0	Aug	unq
Oct	323.0-22.0		Volume: 829

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 4

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	105.68	133.02	119.84
(+/-)	-0.03	-0.21	-1.04
Eng/Wales:	105.70	133.71	119.62
(+/-)	+0.04	+0.26	-1.75
(%)	+4.0	+8.0	+9.0
Scotland:	105.10	130.29	122.23
(+/-)	-1.98	-1.92	-0.24
(%)	+7.0	+26.0	-8.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.70	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.70	+0.25
Brent 15 day (May)	16.85	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.40	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.45	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 183 (n/c)	O: 186 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	172 (-1)	175 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Mar	170 (+6)	173 (+7)
Non EEC 1H Apr	163 (+1)	165 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	105 (+1)	106 (n/c)
Naphtha	166 (-4)	168 (-4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	168.50-68.75	Jun	149.75-50.00
Apr	158.00-58.25	Jul	148.50 BID
May	152.50-52.75		Vol: 18042

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.69-17.71	Jul	16.11-16.14
May	16.85-16.87	Aug	15.93-15.96
Jun	16.45 SLR		Vol: 38706

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	115.10	Mar	108.25
May	117.30	May	108.80
Jul	119.30	Sep	105.60
Sep	109.15	Nov	107.25
Nov	110.55	Jan	109.25
Volume: 658		Volume: 89	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	185.0	186.3
May	unq	199.0
Jun	—	225.0
		Volume: 22

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 110.25-110.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1410	1375	1408
Apr 96	1415	1390	1415
May 96	1410	1375	1410
Jul 96	1300	1295	1295
Vol: 313 lots		Open Interest: 4780	

Index 1347 -2

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2583.0-2584.0	2532.0-2533.0	15086175
Lead ($/tonne)	767.00-768.00	763.50-764.00	213025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1032.0-1032.5	1053.0-1053.5	817450
Tin ($/tonne)	6110.0-6120.0	6185.0-6190.0	25615
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1593.0-1594.0	1622.5-1623.0	1381350
Nickel ($/tonne)	7734.0-7735.0	7830.0-7835.0	46050

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	24	33½	43½	8	20	23
(*511½)	550	5½	12	22½	39½	52	54½
Argyll	300	12	19½	23½	6½	17½	20
(*303)	330	2	8	11½	27½	37½	39
ASDA	100	8	11	13½	2	4	6
(*105)	110	3	6	8½	7	8½	10½
Boots	600	26½	38	49½	7	20	26
(*614½)	650	5½	14½	23½	36½	49½	54
Br Airways	500	39	49½	57	3½	13	15½
(*533)	550	9½	20½	30½	23½	36	39
[illegible]							

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	24	34½	43	4½	12½	18½
(*515½)	550	3	12½	19½	35	41½	45½
Thames W.	500	43	50½	54	1½	11½	17
(*537½)	550	9½	19	26	18½	30½	40
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	550	27½	40	48	16½	27	32
(*571½)	600	8	19½	26½	48½	50½	61
BTR	300	23½	27	30	4	7	10½
(*123)	330	4½	11½	15	19½	22	25½
[illegible]							

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	550	20½	41	51	4½	16½	26
(*565)	600	1½	17½	27	35½	43	52½
Amstrad	200	12	22½	29	3	11	14
(*209½)	220	2½	13	19½	13½	21	24
Barclays	750	22½	48	60½	4½	20½	31
(*765½)	800	2½	24	35½	35	46½	57
Blue Circ	330	29½	33½	40½	0½	9½	13½
(*358)	360	7	15	23½	8	23½	27½
Br Gas	220	19½	23	24½	0	5½	8½
(*238½)	240	4½	10½	13½	5	15½	18
[illegible]							

FT-SE INDEX (*3776)

[illegible]

March 5, 1996 Tot: 35723 Call: 20101 Put: 15615 FT-SE Call: 8094 Put: 8721
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 68914	Mar 96	3788.0	3797.0	3769.0	3777.0	12836
	Jun 96	3791.0	3798.5	3775.5	3779.5	3541
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4369	Mar 96	4291.0	4291.0	4291.0	4285.0	23
	Jun 96				4301.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 363867	Mar 96	93.96	93.96	93.92	93.94	10057
	Jun 96	94.17	94.18	94.10	94.14	26875
	Sep 96	94.15	94.16	94.07	94.11	19705
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.74	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1127665	Mar 96	96.70	96.71	96.66	96.68	20032
	Jun 96	96.84	96.85	96.77	96.81	44264
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 153335	Mar 96	108-16	108-23	107-27	107-28	21009
	Jun 96	107-23	107-31	107-00	107-03	66023
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.98	120.05	119.98	120.04	265
	Jun 96	118.72	118.72	118.60	118.68	2214
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 266436	Mar 96	98.28	98.30	97.54	97.65	119264
	Jun 96	97.43	97.46	96.68	96.78	201509
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 23960	Mar 96	95.44	95.44	95.36	95.41	423
	Jun 96	95.59	95.59	95.52	95.52	886
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 59600	Mar 96	98.30	98.30	98.22	98.25	4758
	Jun 96	98.25	98.26	98.16	98.19	8695
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 55029	Mar 96	111.72	111.99	111.31	111.42	10498
	Jun 96	111.40	111.57	110.60	110.62	46089

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6 Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 : 3 mth 5$\frac{31}{32}$. Sell: 2 mth 5$\frac{31}{32}$: 3 mth: 5⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6$\frac{1}{32}$-6	6-5$\frac{31}{32}$	5$\frac{31}{32}$-5⅞	5⅞-5$\frac{13}{16}$	
Sterling Money Rates:	6$\frac{3}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6⅛-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{29}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-0
Interbank:	6$\frac{3}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6⅛-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{29}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6$\frac{1}{32}$	n/a	6	5$\frac{31}{32}$	5$\frac{31}{32}$
Sterling CDs:	6$\frac{3}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{31}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{31}{32}$
Dollar CDs:	5.23	n/a	5.15	5.14	5.15
Building Society CDs:	6$\frac{3}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6⅛-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{29}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5$\frac{1}{16}$-4$\frac{15}{16}$	5$\frac{3}{16}$-5$\frac{1}{16}$	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3½-3$\frac{3}{16}$	3⅜-3¼	3$\frac{5}{16}$-3$\frac{3}{16}$	4-3
French Franc:	4$\frac{1}{16}$-3$\frac{15}{16}$	4$\frac{1}{16}$-4	4$\frac{5}{16}$-4$\frac{3}{16}$	4⅛-4¼	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	1$\frac{11}{16}$-1$\frac{9}{16}$	1⅝-1$\frac{9}{16}$	1⅝-1½	1½-1⅜	2-1
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-⅜	$\frac{11}{16}$-$\frac{9}{16}$	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $394.00-394.50 **Close:** $393.10-393.60 **High:** $394.20-394.70
Low: $392.00-392.50 **AM:** $392.90 **PM:** $393.60

Krugerrand: $392.75-394.75 (£256.50-258.50)

Platinum: $405.25 (£265.20) **Silver:** $5.37 (£3.515) **Palladium:** $132.25 (£86.55)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 5	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5233-2.5331	2.5233-2.5266	½-⅜pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Brussels	46.32-46.54	46.32-46.42	14-10pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7020-8.7470	8.7020-8.7240	1½-1⅛pr	4-3pr
Dublin	0.9709-0.9738	0.9709-0.9734	11-8pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2543-2.2636	2.2543-2.2574	⅜-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Lisbon	233.84-235.00	233.84-234.46	½-⅛ds	½-1⅛ds
Madrid	190.68-191.53	190.68-190.97	42-52ds	114-131ds
Milan	2365.4-2372.9	2366.2-2370.2	7-9ds	21-23ds
Montreal	2.0884-2.0987	2.0957-2.0987	0.22-0.14pr	0.35-0.24pr
New York	1.5262-1.5294	1.5284-1.5294	0.125-0.105pr	0.30-0.27pr
Oslo	9.8140-9.8500	9.8140-9.8290	1⅛-⅜pr	2½-1⅞pr
Paris	7.7200-7.7550	7.7200-7.7330	1⅜-1⅛pr	3⅜-3⅛pr
Stockholm	10.439-10.481	10.446-10.470	½-⅛ds	⅛-⅜ds
Tokyo	160.15-160.78	160.51-160.78	⅝-⅜pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.851-15.915	15.851-15.877	⅞-⅜pr	1⅞-⅝pr
Zurich	1.8325-1.8416	1.8325-1.8353	⅝-⅜pr	2-1⅝pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3163-1.3171
Austria	10.40-10.41
Belgium (Com)	30.40-30.44
Canada	1.3697-1.3702
Denmark	5.7150-5.7180
France	5.0680-5.0700
Germany	1.4797-1.4802
Hong Kong	7.7315-7.7325
Ireland	1.5698-1.5718
Italy	1551.40-1551.90
Japan	105.03-105.08
Malaysia	2.5420-2.5430
Netherlands	1.6564-1.6574
Norway	6.4383-6.4403
Portugal	153.54-153.59
Singapore	1.4105-1.4115
Spain	125.16-125.25
Sweden	6.8460-6.8560
Switzerland	1.2028-1.2035

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5270-1.5296
Australia dollar	2.0087-2.0113
Bahrain dinar	0.5690-0.5810
Brazil real*	1.4934-1.4975
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7025-0.7125
Finland markka	6.9325-7.0485
Greece drachma	365.50-372.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.8068-11.8137
India rupee	51.38-52.34
Indonesia rupiah	3499.00-3567.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4510-0.4610
Malaysia ringgit	3.8834-3.8867
New Zealand dollar	2.2607-2.2634
Pakistan rupee	52.43 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4900-5.6140
Singapore dollar	2.1550-2.1573
S Africa rand (com)	5.8620-5.9640
U A E dirham	5.5400-5.6640

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,800	Land Secs	1,300
ASDA Gp	8,800	Legal & Gn	1,000
Abbey Ntl	3,600	Lloyds TSB	13,000
Allied Dom	2,500	Marks Spr	2,400
Argos	678	NatWst Bk	2,600
Argyll Gp	4,800	Nat Grid	5,500
AB Foods	2,700	Nat Power	1,200
BAA	8,600	P & O	4,300
BAT Inds	4,900	Pearson	979
BOC	897	Pilkington	3,900
BP	6,800	PowerGen	2,900
BSkyB	1,400	Prudential	4,500
BTR	6,700	REXAM	10,000
BT	10,000	RMC	485
Bk of Scot	2,000	RTZ	4,000
Barclays	3,100	Rank Org	3,500
Bass	2,800	Reckitt Col	746
Blue Circle	2,500	Redland	806
Boots	4,900	Reed Intl	929
BAe	2,500	Rentokil	2,100
BA	6,000	Reuters	4,100
Brit Gas	10,000	Rolls Royce	6,400
Brit Steel	12,000	Royal Ins	1,200
Burmah Cstl	462	Ryl Bk Scot	740
Burton	5,600	Sainsbury	1,700
Cable Wire	6,400	Schroders	25
Cadbury	4,300	Scot & New	495
Carlton Cms	1,400	Scot Power	2,800
Cm Union	1,600	Svrn Trent	1,700
Cookson	1,900	Shell Trans	3,100
Courtaulds	1,700	Siebe	669
Dixons	2,200	SmKl Bch	1,900
Enterpr Oil	439	Smith Nph	1,400
For & Col IT	2,100	Smiths Inds	433
GKN	1,800	Sthern Elec	817
GRE	4,800	Std Chartd	2,000
GUS	1,800	Sun Allnce	3,500
Gen Acc	1,400	TI Gp	1,000
Gen Elec	4,700	Tate & Lyle	231
Glaxo Well	3,900	Tesco	7,500
Granada	1,700	Thames W	1,200
Grand Met	1,600	Thrn EMI	1,100
Greenalls	448	Tomkins	2,400
Guinness	4,700	Unilever	3,600
HSBC	2,500	United Utls	3,800
Hanson	11,000	Vodafone	16,000
ICI	3,900	Whitbread	2,300
Kingfisher	2,300	Wllms Hld	2,200
LASMO	2,100	Wolseley	1,600
Ladbroke	3,000	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
AMP Inc	43⅛	43⅜
AMR Corp	87¾	89¼
AT & T	63½	63¼
Abbott Labs	42⅞	43⅛
Advanced Micro	18⅜	18⅜
Aetna Life	75⅞	76⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	23⅜	23⅞
[illegible]		

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Eastman Kodak	72	71⅝
Eaton Corp	57⅜	57⅝
Edison Int	17⅛	17⅛
Emerson Elec	81⅜	81⅜
Engelhard Corp	20⅜	20⅜
Enron Corp	36⅛	37⅛
Entergy	28⅜	28⅜
[illegible]		

	Mar 5 midday	Mar 4 close
Oracle	49⅞	48⅛
Oryx Energy Co	12⅞	12⅞
Owens Corning	41	41⅛
PHH Corp	50⅛	50⅛
PPG Industries	47⅛	47⅛
PNC Bank	30⅜	30⅜
PP&L Res	25	25⅛
[illegible]		

[illegible]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Perry earns Dutch honour

SIR Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever and knighted by the Queen in 1994, has now been honoured by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. He has been appointed a Commander in the Order of Oranje Nassau, the highest granted to non-nationals, in recognition of services to Anglo-Dutch relations in commerce and industry. The honour was presented to Sir Michael in London yesterday by the Dutch Ambassador.

Healthy skin

THE latest money-spinner in New York for investors prepared to take a punt, who are not too squeamish, is not computers or pork bellies, but human skin. Integra LifeSciences, which launched itself on the market in January, has already shot to a 50 per cent premium after approval from the Food and Drug Administration this week for its test-tube skin. Ortec, which also launched in January, but does not yet have approval, is lagging with a 20 per cent premium.

Bankers' refuge

WHAT is the collective noun for a bunch of ex-bankers? I suggest Caspian, in honour of the investment group set up by former Baring Securities man Christopher Heath in June 1995. The latest banker to join Caspian Securities' board is Wilfried Thalwitz, a former senior vice-president at the World Bank, who will be responsible for developing business in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and the Mediterranean. It is a patch he knows well.

Thalwitz, 64 last Friday, is an economist trained in Germany who joined the World Bank in 1963. At Caspian, he will rub shoulders with Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank 1968-81, and, of course, with Rupert Pennant-Rea, former deputy governor of the Bank of England who joined Caspian as non-executive chairman last August.

Thalwitz: new job

Capital wit

THE Labour Party's rallying cry of a "stakeholder society" has encouraged stockbroker Foster & Braithwaite to have a little fun at Tony Blair's expense. The broker is launching its own "Stakeholder" savings plan designed to appeal to anyone saving for school fees. "The savings plan has several features, but no Clause Four whatsoever. "This is caring capitalism." F&B Investments' managing director Malcolm Murray says in his best deep blue voice.

Rock'n'hold

ALTHOUGH Independent Insurance spent £100,000 last spring sponsoring the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the company's chief executive Michael Bright has let slip that he is something of a rocker. As Independent reported year-end results yesterday, telephone callers on hold were treated to Rod Stewart's anthem, *Maggie May*. "The girls on the desk chose Rod," Bright explained. "I'd rather we played Status Quo — it brings back memories of days gone by," the fifty-something rocker says.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Boeing has stayed ahead of the game by using profits from its lucrative 747 to cross-subsidise aircraft that compete with Airbus products

Can East champion Airbus cause in jumbo dogfight?

Ross Tieman on a vision that aims to keep Europe's aircraft in the skies

Blessed and blighted by its share of dreamers, Europe's aircraft industry needs a new vision to save it from creeping oblivion. Thirty years ago, a Franco-German inspiration, Airbus Industrie, rescued the industry from the successive commercial failures of the British Comet, Trident, VC10 and BAC1-11 airliners, the French Caravelle and the Anglo-French Concorde. Belatedly joined by the British, and in a small way by Spanish interests, Airbus has successfully challenged American dominance of the civil jet market, selling more than 1,300 planes to 130 operators worldwide.

But the vision of limited collaboration by Europe's national champions is no longer adequate to the new world order of the 1990s. Boeing, the world's airliner champion, has responded with a cost-cutting drive and aggressive marketing that is winning the company the lion's share of new orders.

An enormous market is emerging in Asia, where air travel is soaring at up to 10 per cent a year, twice the rate in the West. Governments in China, India, Korea and Singapore are anxious to develop indigenous aircraft industries, both to enhance the technological capability of their economies, and ease the balance of payments burden imposed by ordering aircraft overseas.

Asian aerospace companies, having cut their engineering teeth on fighter planes built under licence, are now keen to turn their capacity and low-cost base to commercial advantage.

The Asian market, money and ambitions offer a way out of the excruciating double bind in which Airbus, and its parent companies, are now gripped.

For Boeing's new-found ability to undercut them in the market place is but a symptom of troubles closer to home. After the Second World War, half of Europe had an over-large arms industry, and the other half had heaps of rubble. But as East-West tension mounted, every nation concluded that it needed to be able to build aircraft for its own defence. But the electronic revolution of the 1980s turned an aircraft into a mere platform for systems that account for up to four fifths of its cost. Costs, both in development and production, reached the stratosphere. European nations can no longer afford to develop military planes alone.

Even in America, with an arms market to match those of Europe combined, the arms trade has seen a series of mega-mergers to achieve the economies of scale now required in a post-Cold War era of standstill defence spending. In 1997, American spending on defence is now planned to be the lowest, as a proportion of national product, since 1938. If Europe is to match the step-change in costs and competitiveness achieved by the Americans, its aerospace industry must consolidate, fast. The British and Germans have known it for several years. Now the French are finally facing up to reality. Over the next two years, Europe's planemakers will be roaring from corporate airfield to corporate airfield in an aerial circus of courtship rituals. Dick Evans, British Aerospace's chief executive, already has Jürgen Schrempp, the Daimler-Benz chairman, flying wing-man in subtle merger manoeuvres. Their challenge is to teach the same hard-learned commercial tricks to the French industry champions, Aérospatiale, in civil aircraft, and Dassault, in warplanes, and then tag on Saab of Sweden, Alenia of Italy and Casa of Spain to the formation.

Quite how the new Euro-structures, in either jetliners or warplanes, will look cannot yet be discerned. But the vision of what they are seeking to achieve is at last becoming clear. Airbus is a curious animal, a partnership between Aérospatiale and Daimler-Benz, each with 37.9 per cent; BAe, with 20 per cent; and Casa, with 4.2 per cent. Structured as a Groupement d'Intérêt Economique, it acrues no profits or losses, but divides returns and shortfalls among the partners, who are responsible for borrowings. When it comes to allocating work, the partners bid against one another in a curious "club of liars". To maximise its share of Airbus profits, a partner must get the biggest-possible margin on the components and aerostructures it supplies, without being undercut by another partner when bids are invited for the work.

The effect is to peg Airbus costs to those of the least cost-effective partners, Aérospatiale and Casa, and saddle its salesmen with higher than necessary prices in their campaigns. Somehow, a way must be found to bring the manufacturing plants owned by BAe and its partners under the control of Airbus. BAe is keen to transfer its assets, provided the others first carry the costs of making their plants competitive. The changing international environment makes 'structural reform urgent. But Airbus has another problem. In many sales competitions, Boeing uses profits on its one product that still enjoys a market monopoly, the Jumbo 747, to cross-subsidise aircraft that compete with Airbus products. Result: victory.

> Asia offers way out of the excruciating double bind in which Airbus is gripped

The Airbus partners therefore face three crucial challenges: they must create a structure that drives down production costs; develop and sell a new mega-jumbo, the 500-seat to 800-seat A3XX, that will allow them to compete with Boeing across its full product range; and accommodate the ambitions of Asian governments and industrialists.

Ironically, Asian aerospace ambitions offer a partial solution to the problem of finding $8 billion to $12 billion to develop the A3XX. Richard Lapthorne, BAe's finance director, believes that Asian readiness to accept low or deferred returns to gain industry entry, combined with low-interest launch aid from European governments and a balance of market-rate money could make the cost of financing A3XX commercially viable.

The first fruit of this cocktail is likely to be a regional jet. Orchestrated by Peking, aerospace companies in China, Korea, Singapore and India are seeking western partners to build a new 100-seat jet, the Asian Express 100.

The front-runner for this deal is Aero International Regional, a marketing and after-sales joint venture owned equally by BAe, Aérospatiale and Alenia. This project has to be brought into an alliance with Airbus, so that the plane becomes in effect the smallest in the Airbus range. To succeed in the market, airlines must be confident that the new plane is of Airbus quality, and benefits from the Airbus after-sales network. Ideally, it must share a common system of controls with the Airbus A320 series, and their larger brethren, the A330/A340.

This will not be easy. AIR is a first step to integrated management and manufacture of the Avro regional jet range built by BAe, together with BAe's Jetstream turboprop operations and ATR, a turboprop manufacturing joint venture owned by Aérospatiale and Alenia. Daimler, which pulled the plug on its own Dutch regional subsidiary, Fokker, must also be brought on board.

The AE100 will be a twin-jet successor to the Avro. China is adamant that final assembly must take place in its own factories. Since final assembly accounts for only 5 per cent of cost, the Europeans have no objections in principle, although a European assembly line may be needed to give buyers sufficient confidence in the quality of the product.

At the same time, AIR must quit the manufacture of turboprops, a low-cost, over-competitive sector whose products are being supplanted by jets.

So there is the vision. Airbus restructured, with two new planes to fill the gaps at the bottom and the top of its product range. Airbus tied in with Asian partners to provide market access, cheap finance, and low-cost manufacturing plants. Airbus off the ropes, and at the throat of Boeing.

Michael Steinberger on Hong Kong's fiscal prudence

Few handouts before handover

Hong Kong moves a step closer to Chinese rule today when Donald Tsang, the Financial Secretary, unveils the colony's 1996-97 budget, its last under British administration.

Mr Tsang will recommend a sizeable increase in spending on welfare and education, but is otherwise expected to abide by the conservative principles that have long guided government policymakers. With the handover just 16 months away, the Financial Secretary has good reason to play it safe. "He hasn't got much room to manoeuvre," says Ian Perkin, economist for the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. "If he were looking for a title, 'Much Ado About Nothing' would be appropriate."

But Mr Tsang's caution is unlikely to win much praise. Legislators are threatening to veto the package if it fails to provide what they consider adequate assistance for the elderly and the poor. They are also demanding more spending to stimulate the economy and to halt the outflow of manufacturing jobs.

China, which thinks the colony already devotes too much money to welfare, is bound to find fault with even the most timid proposals. Reaction to the budget will underscore the profound divisions blocking agreement on a blueprint for the colony's economic development. Though Peking hopes to inherit an economic powerhouse unencumbered by social concerns, there is an emerging consensus in Hong Kong that the Government must do more to help those unable to cope with the colony's rather unforgiving brand of capitalism.

Chris Patten, accused of infecting Hong Kong with 'the virus of British welfarism'

Despite the Chinese criticism, the colonial administration will leave office next year with its reputation for fiscal rectitude largely intact. Public assistance has increased over 70 per cent since the early 1990s, but the growth started from a very low base and was initiated in response to problems that even the business community agreed required attention. Moreover, the Government has kept its spending in line with the rate of economic expansion. The public sector still accounts for less than 20 per cent of Hong Kong's gross domestic product and the colony's tax burden remains light.

Some critics believe the administration has managed Hong Kong's money too well: years of budget surpluses have lined the colony's coffers with nearly $20 billion in fiscal reserves. This year's budget is also expected to be in the black. Though little more than $3 billion is earmarked for the post-1997 government, the entire surplus will likely be handed over, together with $39 billion in foreign exchange reserves and another $11 billion from the sale of public land. Chris Patten, Hong Kong's Governor, calls it "the biggest dowry since Cleopatra."

The enormous amount of money being set aside has so far failed to reassure Peking that Britain will not strip the cupboards bare before leaving. Similarly, Mr Patten was accused of infecting Hong Kong with "the virus of British welfarism" after proposing a pay-as-you-go pension scheme for the colony two years ago.

Members of Hong Kong's Legislative Council will no longer stay reticent. Once willing to defer to the executive branch on many fiscal matters, the legislature has become far more assertive since elections last September when, for the first time, all 60 representatives were elected.

Advocacy groups, armed with statistics showing that the gap between rich and poor is widening, have increased the populist ferment, which reached fever pitch last month following a cold spell that was blamed for the deaths of more than 100 senior citizens.

With or without the Legislative Council, the debate over economic priorities and the role of government in Hong Kong will be on the agenda long after Britain has left.

ANTHONY HARRIS

A bull steer from Canada's great veteran bear

They must have been listening in Wall Street. Bears from all over gathered in London yesterday to hear about the future — the coming Wall Street crash, that is — from their house journal, *Bank Credit Analyst*. *BCA* has traditionally read like a Canadian book of the Apocalypse, redone as a part-work. Early warnings about thin financial ice, or the debt trap, or about speculative climaxes (maximum opportunity, maximum risk) were its core message. "Early", it is true, was itself a warning; *BCA* readers needed strong nerves while they waited for the inevitable. But if you were patient, the danger signals were reliable.

Imagine the surprise of the faithful, then, when they heard a message which would form a useful text for any high-pressure equity salesman. European fund managers, notoriously short of Wall Street, were roundly denounced: what they failed to understand was that the great bull run is well founded in the new US miracle.

The US is a fiscal model, with stable debt and a deficit which makes the Maastricht criteria look permissive. Its economy is dynamic, inventive, flexible, supported by strong investment, and growing faster than the figures show. Profits have consistently beaten even bullish forecasts, but, in terms of GDP, are still far below their 1960s highs; earnings growth may slow, but could go on outpacing the real economy for years.

Onward and upward, then; but this was still a *BCA* meeting. Yes, there will be a crash — or more probably, a crashette. The economic picture may be sound, but the financial ice is thin. The valuation and speculation indices (only *BCA* claims to be able to calculate such indices, and chart them) have strayed into over-valued and highly speculative territory; but not very far yet. A correction is due, but probably from higher values, and triggered by strong growth, implying rising interest rates.

And it will be limited. The private investor will ensure that: the most fascinating chart showed personal holdings almost uncannily related to age: and the demographic push goes right on into the 21st century. The *BCA* endorsement of this column's endless stress on the importance of demographics in asset markets is worth an article in itself. European fund managers will surely wake up some time. If they do not treat the correction as a chance to reboard the bus they have so spectacularly missed, then the insults they heard yesterday were too mild.

The fund managers got off quite lightly compared with Europe's political leaders. It was instructive to listen to the sheer contempt which their aims and policies now inspire in New York and Toronto. They appeared as obsessed reactionaries, trying to preserve the economic past in aspic, while they struggle to create a union of stagnation. If the view of Morgan Stanley and *BCA* are representative, the decoupling of the European bourses from the Wall Street boom explains itself. US investment managers are now showing some renewed interest in other markets, but they are not European markets, or likely to be.

It is the emerging markets which are due to reappear (though not those of the old Warsaw Pact countries, seen as trapped between Eurostagnation and Russian chaos). Mexico is already old news in stock-market terms but its economic revival is not just a matter for investors. It will, on *BCA* numbers, add up to a full point to US growth, and go far to correct the US trade deficit. This leads to the final surprise: *BCA* is a bull not only of equities, but of the dollar. Possible targets: 1.40 against the yen, 1.70 against the mark — enough to revive Japanese profits, but not to revive European competitiveness.

All this from the Great Bear? It is hard to believe, and two doubts nag: it was all economics, with hardly a word so far about finance, home territory for *BCA*. And the final *BCA* speaker sounded like a bear, not a bull. They even grow their own contrarians. Take your pick.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	512	- 2	5.8	18.5
561	390	Bulmer (HP)	561	+ 2	2.7	17.6
146	99	Burn Stewart	120		5.2	25.8
467	352	Grand Met	437	- 3	4.3	18.8
536	404	Guinness	468	- 7	3.8	14.5
445	315	Highland Dist	358		2.8	16.2
217	157	Macallan-Glen	162		1.0	35.9
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	635		2.1	17.9
698	532	Matthew Clark	697	+ 4	3.9	
140	61	Merrydown W	103		3.4	
2812½	1287½	SA Breweries	2350	+ 37½	1.4	33.1

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3162½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3118¾	- 12½	4.1	11.7
663	413	Abbey Natl	565	+ 3	4.8	10.8
395	250	Allied Irish	340	+ 1	4.2	
336	198	Aus New Z	320	- 6	5.1	
4968¾	2531¼	Bank America	4968¾	+ 112½		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	274	- 1½	2.8	12.1
819	557½	Barclays	786	- 1	4.2	8.9
488	288	Bk of Ireland	457	+ 1	3.7	9.2
525	418	Cater Allen	467		8.0	7.7
5212½	2450	Citicorp	5212½			
392	216¼	Close Bros	379		3.0	16.7
£162½	£129½	Commerzbk	£149¾	+ 1⅝	3.6	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1225	+ 6¼	0.4	
3375	2775	Deutsche Bk	3346¼	- 3¼	2.2	
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	784¾	+ 16¼	4.6	10.4
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1310¾	+ ½	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	417	- 1	6.7	13.5
353	180	Hambros	214	+ 1	4.4	
1125	589	HSBC	1093	+ 2	3.7	12.4
1098	578	HSBC HK	1072	+ 5	3.8	12.1
421	228	Irish Perm	400		3.2	
463	353	Joseph (L)	450		5.2	15.5
165	85	King Shaxson	155		7.3	12.0
350	308	Lloyds TSB	336	+ 2	2.9	18.1
640	479	Nat Aust Bk	617	- 10	6.7	8.3
711	454	Nat West	694½	- ½	4.6	9.7
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.1	24.0
639½	373½	Royal Bk Scot	556	- 1	3.6	12.6
1478	906¾	Schroders	1270		1.4	18.1
1180	823¼	Schroders N/V	998		1.8	14.2
113	81	Singer & Fried	109½	- ½	4.2	11.3
662½	246	Stand Chart	645	+ 3	2.2	13.9
121	70	Union	101		3.7	
£169	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£163¼	+ 87½	1.8	
317¼	211	Westpac	303¾	- 2	4.6	
305	200	Woolwich	304		4.8	17.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	25	Abrdn Stk H'ds	42			9.1
368	143	Ascot Hldgs	340			0.7
766	487	Bass	766	+ 6	3.7	17.6
487	239	Boddington	481		2.4	24.7
76	42	Brk for the Bdr	65		3.3	16.5
192	137	Burtonwd Brw	175		3.9	16.9
97	70½	City Centre Rest	94½	- ½	2.6	18.3
497	305	Compass Grp	434		1.9	21.8
257	137	Eldridge P 'A'	256		2.2	23.6
475	335	Fullr Sm 'A'	473		2.3	18.7
614	402	Greenalls Grp	574	+ 1	3.1	15.6
658	468	Greene King	635		2.8	15.6
278	140	Grosvenor Inns	245		2.8	26.1
254	108	Groupe Chez Gs	218		1.4	25.9
357	240	Hardy Hansn	327		3.9	12.2
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.8	
3425	3048	Holt J	3108		2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	324		2.1	16.3
348	266	Marston Thmp	347	+ 2	2.6	16.3
629	391½	Morland	629		2.3	17.6
152½	92½	My Kinda Town	132	+ 2	2.9	12.9
8¼	6	Paramount	6		4.6	9.5
142½	70	Pelican Gp	127½	+ ½	1.6	21.4
275	127	PizzaExpress	271		1.1	38.1

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
483	345	Brammer	469	+ 2	3.6	18.0
22	10½	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
98	78	Brit Fittings	80		5.0	12.1
270	215	Caltyne	260		5.5	17.9
14	9	Cavendale	11¼	+ ½	3.0	7.8
88	54	Central Mtr	68		0.9	
94	70	Charles Sidney	80		5.8	12.6
61	35	Cook (DC)	55	- 1½	3.9	8.1
333	220	Cowie	333	+ 4	4.0	12.3
155	123	Dag Motors	129		7.3	10.2
149½	125½	Densmans El	148	+ 2	2.2	13.3
501	375½	Diploma	428	- 3	4.2	13.9
370	296	Electrocomponents	348	+ 3	2.2	23.6
314	153	Eurodis Elec	310	+ 5	1.8	38.7
235	64	Eurodollar	99	+ 4	9.8	6.0
120	76	European Mtr	82		7.9	7.0
449	280	Evans Halshaw	309		6.3	9.6
630	603	Farnell Elect▲	625	+ 3	2.0	18.2
72	48	File Indiana	63		6.4	10.3
24½	15	Gardiner	22½		4.7	
49½	16	Glenchewton	49½	+ 1½	0.8	
108	61	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.6
241	148	Harris (Philip)	241		3.8	15.3
224½	137	Headlam▲	230		2.4	30.0
592	258	Henlys	592		2.6	
137	81	Holders Tech©	136		5.5	25.9
183	88	ISA Intl	183		1.6	
430	200	Inchcape	265		7.1	24.0
66	33	Jacks (Wm)	43		2.2	8.2
199	142	Kwik-Fit	198		2.9	16.9
358½	264½	Lex Service	321	+ 2	5.8	11.7
193½	119	Lookers▲	130		7.9	
22	9	Malaya Grp	14	+ ½	4.3	18.9
9½	5	Middlesex©	8¼		0.8	18.9
77	31	Midstates	38			5.4
534	330	Norbain	475	+ 5	2.0	16.1
288	78	Northamber	255		0.9	20.5
162	135	PCT©	149		6.5	10.6
291	225	Pendragon	287	+ 2	4.0	
166	123	Perry Gp	148		6.5	11.2
148	126	Quicks Group	148		4.9	12.6
198	160	REA	185		2.7	22.0
3½	2¼	Reece	2¾	+ ¼		
73	48	Rowson	51		3.1	10.4
6½	2	Ross Gp	3¼			
63½	37½	SEP Indl	54		3.7	
17½	8½	Saltire	14½			8.2
275	235	Time Products	275	+ 5	4.2	16.1
58½	28	Torex Hire#	31		5.4	
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	275	+ 3	2.7	15.2
358	240	Wholesale Fitgs	356		4.2	18.9
80	39	Wilshaw	42½	- 2	2.4	10.1
118	56½	Wyko	110		2.0	
120	68	Young (H)	120		4.1	14.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2	0½	Anglo Utd	0½			
388	235	Antofagasta	375		1.5	17.6
956	728¼	Broken Hill	946	- 12	2.6	21.1
348	291	BTR	322½	- 3½	5.3	14.0
586	405	BAT	572	- 3	4.9	13.0
270½	144	Berisford Intl	188	- 1	2.0	18.3
131	71	Bibby (J)	118		6.1	9.5
58	40½	Brierley Inv	57¼	- ½	7.8	3.0
948	743	Charter	841	- 5	3.7	13.6
317	185	Courtaulds	312	- 5	2.9	19.8
161	135	Cosalt	153		7.1	9.7
157	119½	Fenner	147		3.1	14.4
153	100	Grampian Hdg	130		5.6	14.7
243½	179	Hanson	191½	+ 1	7.8	9.5
172½	135	Harrisn Crsfld	172	+ 8	6.5	18.3
439¾	300¾	Hutch Whampo	427¼	+ 5¾	1.8	22.6
584½	341¾	Jardine Math	538¼	+ 6½	3.0	10.6
37	25	Jourdan (T)	26		6.0	7.1
217½	134	Lonrho	192	- 1	3.1	21.5
175	113	McLeod Russel	175		4.6	15.8
601	414	Powell Duffryn	471	+ 4	6.6	19.3
152	123	Ropner	143	+ 1	7.2	9.8
178	120	Sime Darby	171		2.8	15.6
230	164	Staveley	204	- 2	5.2	13.9
307	148	Suter	168	- 8	7.2	11.2
301½	227	TT Group	294	- 1	2.4	16.5
394½	214	Tomkins	364	- 4	4.2	14.5
76	18½	Trafalgar H	48½			

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
149	122	INVESCO Korea	130	+ 1		
61½	49	INVESCO Tokyo	57¼			
99	69½	J Fry 2nd Ut	71		12.0	
94	71	J Fry Euro U	72		7.9	12.8
251	174	JF Fledg Jap	232½			
128	99	Jupiter Intl Gmt	115		4.1	
272	184	Kleinwt Chrty	264	+ 1	2.6	
130	96½	Kleinwt E Mkt	126			
140	110	Kleinwt End	139½			
86½	73	Kleinwt Euro Prvt	86½	+ ¾	3.3	
27½	20	Kleinwt Euro Wts	20¼	- ¼		

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
30½	3½	Farringford	15			
118½	56	First Choice	67		7.1	
391	262	First Leisure	390	- 1	2.5	22.4
406	224½	Forte	348		3.1	24.0
175	133	Friendly Hotels	147		4.8	17.2
742	476	Granada	728	+ 5	2.0	17.6
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	29		5.5	
176	96	Hornby©	175		3.6	15.0
507	248	Hazelock	504		2.2	19.5
243	134	Jurys Hotels	221	+ 4½	3.6	14.1
38	1½	Kunick	27½		2.7	23.4

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1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91	74	Kleinwt H Inc	76		14.1	8.2
297	213	Kleinwt O'seas	292	+ 1	1.5	
148	111	Kleinwt Smlr	147		2.0	68.1
605¼	477½	Korea—Euro	572¾	+ ¾	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	106¼	- ¼		
1003	718	Law Debenture	1002	+ 2	2.7	42.7
105	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	105			
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Div	27		17.1	7.6
132	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	132		3.5	37.2
178	160	Lon St Lawrence	172		4.6	28.3
355	283	Lowland	352		3.6	31.2
1387½	975	Lyubourg	975		2.2	37.6
665	503	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	625	+ 5		
125	95	M&G 2nd Dual In	97			4.0
3073	2533	M&G Dual Cap	2950	+ 30		

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
193	122	Ladbroke	180	- 2	4.2	54.7
519	264	London Clubs	517	+ 2	3.4	18.5
283	122	Man Utd	280	+ 13	2.0	11.7
97¼	58	Mandarin Orntl	86½	- 2	4.2	18.5
100	66	Northern	100		5.0	12.2
141	76	Pasta Leisure	123	- 2	5.1	8.6
36	29	Queensborough	34			
20¼	5¼	Queens Moat	20	+ ¼		
497	358	Rank Org	491	+ 1	3.5	13.4
37½	26	Ryan Hotels	33		4.9	11.6
1293	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1293	+ 13	1.4	
213	160	Sinclair (Wm)	178		5.4	11.5
104	74½	Stakis	100	+ 1	2.2	21.1
439	314	Stanley Leisure	435	- 2	1.8	22.6
30½	13	Zetters	19	+ ½	3.3	3.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
92	73	M&G Rec Zero Div	83½			
132	100	M Currie Euro	131	- 1	0.4	
109	90½	M Currie Japan	107½	+ ½		
162	119	M Currie Pac	154	+ 1	0.1	
237	182	Majedie	237	+ 1	3.0	36.5
57	41	Malaysia	45			
290	241	Merchants	288	+ 1	5.2	
95	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	94½		1.8	64.9
32	23	Mercury Eur Wt	23¼			
109½	78	Mercury World	98½		1.3	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	21½			
615	482	Montc Inv Tst	600	+ 2	1.0	55.6
165	125	Morg Gren Inc	163		3.8	27.6
64	40½	Morg Wts	64	+ 1		
86	48	Morg Lat Amer	72½	+ ¾		
49	20	Morg Wts	24¾	+ ½		
130	104	Murray Ent	118		2.5	44.6
34	17	Murray Ent Wts	21½			
96	72½	Murray Emg Eco	94		1.2	
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	30	+ ½		
65	54	Murray Euro	62		0.7	
17½	6	Murray Eu Wts	11			
332	308	Murray Incm	308		3.9	32.0

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
528	335	Abbott Mead	528		1.9	31.3
310	260	Adscene	292		3.6	15.1
51½	22	Aegis Gp	49			19.6
7½	1½	Allied Radio	3¼			
15	9	BBB Design©	15			
315	155	Barbour Index	295		3.9	43.9
10½	4½	Belgrave	7			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Gp	246		5.3	15.2
318	196	Border TV	287		1.9	23.7
382	335	Bristol	375		4.4	19.3
461	242	BSkyB	400	+ 6	1.6	36.7
172	126	CIA Gp©	171		7.4	33.7
30	28	Caledonian Med	30½	+ ½		
675	343	Capital Radio	661	- 8	1.9	
432½	340½	Carlton Comm▼	428	- 1	2.8	15.3
438	248	Chrysalis	438		0.8	
100	80	City of Lon©	80		7.8	10.2
116	63	Cordiant	106	- 2		
1559½	1181¼	Daily Mail	1525		1.5	
1481¼	959½	Daily Mail 'A'	1421½	+ 3½	1.6	

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4681¼	3234½	Total	4303¾	+ 3½	3.6	15.4
366	221	Woodside	361	- 5	1.1	
58	15	XCL	15			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78½	Aberdeen Tst	122	- 1	2.6	24.0
101	75	BWD	88		6.1	14.0
78	35	Berry Bch NV	35	- 1	9.3	9.9
320	148	Bisset Inv	320	+ 2		
163	112	Brewin Dolphin	158		5.5	
750	625	Caledonia	750		2.9	23.3
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
242	142	Cattles	239	+ 2	3.2	21.1
35	16	Claridin	21			
105	61	EFT Group	103	- 2	2.6	
775	653	EFM	700	+ 2	4.6	
186	97	Exco	111		6.8	5.7
305	161	Gartmore	247		0.9	20.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1323	1046	Greggs	1323	+ 6	2.3	18.2
196	142	Iceland Group	148		4.4	8.9
732	455½	Kwik Save	465	+ 2	5.4	8.5
170	132	Morrison (W)	152		1.0	15.1
199	126	Nurdin Peack	142½	- 4½	6.1	15.2
128	78½	Park Foods	79	- 5	4.7	14.2
30	7½	Regina Wts©	6			
479½	363	Sainsbury J	378½	- 1½	3.9	12.6
339	235	Tesco	280½	+ 2	4.0	13.3
175	128	Thorntons	141		4.7	16.2
575	358	Watson& Philip	532	- 1	3.9	16.3

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
105⅝	101[illegible]	Treas 15¼% 1996	101[illegible]	- [illegible]	15.03	5.94
107¼	101[illegible]	Exch 13¼% 1996	101[illegible]	- [illegible]	13.07	5.86
104[illegible]	102[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	102[illegible]		9.74	5.85
101[illegible]	97⅞	Treas 7% 1997	101¼		6.91	6.00
109[illegible]	106[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	106[illegible]		12.47	5.85
105[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 10½% 1997	104[illegible]		10.08	5.87
104[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	103¾		8.43	6.05
117[illegible]	113[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	113¾		13.20	6.14
107[illegible]	102¾	Exch 9¾% 1998	106[illegible]		9.19	6.27
102[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	101[illegible]		7.13	6.35
100[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100[illegible]		6.73	6.59
117⅞	114[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	115[illegible]	- [illegible]	12.14	6.45
124[illegible]	120[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	120[illegible]		12.82	6.55
114[illegible]	129[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	113[illegible]	- [illegible]	10.61	6.67
108[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	107[illegible]		8.86	6.67
116[illegible]	111[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	114[illegible]	- [illegible]	10.86	6.76
112[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	110[illegible]		9.49	6.75
98[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 6% 1999	97[illegible]	- [illegible]	6.15	6.79
112[illegible]	105[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	110[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.25	6.90

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
131[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.80	7.69
101[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7½% 2006	97[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.67	7.81
103[illegible]	92[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	98[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.82	7.87
104[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.94	7.90
125[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.65	7.62
108[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	104[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.14	7.91
138[illegible]	126[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134[illegible]	- [illegible]	10.05	7.69
112[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 9% 2008	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.32	7.96
104[illegible]	94	Treas 8% 2009	99[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.00	8.00

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
88[illegible]	79[illegible]	Treas 5¾% 2010	84[illegible]	- [illegible]	7.42	8.09
112[illegible]	101[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	107[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.35	8.10
113[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	108[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.33	8.11
83¾	72[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	78¼	- [illegible]	6.98	7.82
103[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	98[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.09	8.12
101[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	96½	- [illegible]	8.03	8.13
104[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	98¾	- [illegible]	8.09	8.11
111[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	105[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.26	8.16
141[illegible]	127[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	134[illegible]	- [illegible]	8.90	8.23

UNDATED

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
91	21	Alexon	85			
244	162	Alders	181	- 1	4.8	11.8
642	324	Argos	638	+ 4	2.1	26.9
141	63	Ashley (Laura)	140	+ 4		
225	150	Austin Reed	210		3.6	12.1
146	123	Beattie (J)	134		6.1	14.7
124	95	Bentalls	98		2.7	10.6
88	38	Bellemore	73½		4.4	42.2
78	30	Blacks Leis	77		3.7	39.6
194	107	Body Shop	150	+ 4	2.2	8.9
629	465	Boots	615	+ 6	3.5	17.0
54	18	Brown & Jackson	18			
285	205	Brown (N)	285		2.2	21.7
139	66	Burton	135¼		2.0	27.3
150	90	Cantors	103		3.7	
498	235	Carpetright	495	+ 12	3.1	26.6
219	132	Christies Int	200		1.3	34.0
480	353	Church	432		4.0	17.7
135	67	Clinton Cards	130		4.7	16.4
156	84	C'ty Casuals	154		4.4	
813	708	Courts Furnsng	765		1.1	24.1
220	183	Crown Eye©	190		7.2	7.4
456	236	DFS Furniture	456	+ 6	2.3	27.5
477	186	Dixons Grp	473	+ 3	2.0	25.4
580	580	Elys (Wimbldn)	580		3.9	38.9
11½	5½	ERA Gp	7½			11.6
161	77	Essex Furn©	98		6.5	
236	147	Etam	178	- 1	4.4	
460	330	Fine Art Dev	424	+ 2	4.6	13.0
68	37	Fired Earth	67		1.9	24.2
180	81	Flying Flowers	159		2.4	
295	143	French Conn	153			10.0
269¼	113	Frost Group	120	- 1	6.3	10.1
81	46	Groves	79	+ 1	3.2	17.9
238	112	Goldsmiths Gp	234		1.8	21.2
719	508	GUS	690	+ 8	2.8	18.2
351	179	Hamleys	307		3.1	13.7
97	25	Hampden Grp	91		2.1	17.6
190	125	Hse of Fraser	177	- 3	3.9	22.8
83	49½	Hughes (TJ)	56		5.9	12.4
168	95	Innovations	143		1.6	72.4
629	229	JJB Sports	678		1.2	28.8
560	379	Kingfisher	534	+ 14	3.6	17.8
192	108	Kingsbury Grp	180		1.6	25.4
385	308	Liberty	303		3.0	28.3

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
189	130	NFC	159	+ 1	5.6	23.1
458	289	Natl Express	456	- 1	2.5	18.0
398	261	Ocean Group	396	+ 6	4.6	24.2
100	68	Ocean Wilsns	93		5.7	3.7
637	456	P & O Dfd	540	+ 5	7.1	14.4
211	155	P & O 5½%	160		3.8	
89	55	Seacon	83		4.4	
288	158	Servisair	283		1.7	38.8
409	196	Stagecoach	409		1.8	24.0
77	38	TLS	76		3.0	12.9
110	74	TNT	79	- 2		
713	358	Tibbet & Britn	480		4.2	15.5
241	175	TDG	216	+ 3	5.7	13.0
128	65	Ugland	65		4.0	10.8
113	77	Utd Carriers	82	- 2	7.5	15.5

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian	579	+ 5	5.8	8.9
430	295	Mid Kent Hdgs	430		3.9	11.6
689	475	Severn Trent	642	- 7	5.8	7.7
2410	1855	South Staffs	2405		3.7	14.0
556	459	South West	608	+ 8	6.9	7.1
731	517	Southern	690	+ 11	4.9	8.4
575	456	Thames	538		6.1	7.3
641	467¼	Utd Utilities	606	+ 3	5.5	7.8
800	582½	Welsh	747	+ 7	7.0	8.9
109½	99¼	Welsh Cm Prf	101½		9.7	
361	256½	Wessex	349	+ 5	5.0	7.4
677½	472	Yorkshire	650	+ 7	5.5	8.5

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58	16	Abacus Recruit	40	- 1		
122	85	Cafe Inns	115		2.2	9.5
80	53	Country Gdns	73		2.1	15.1
1250	480	Dawson Hdgs	1225		3.1	
212	37	Firecrest	140	- 3		60.9
16½	15	Freepages	15½	+ ½		
127	58	Megalomedia	109			
595	155	Memory Corp	210	+ 40		
96	54	Old English Pub	96		1.3	
445	345	Pal City	380	- 2		
565	490	Southern News	565	+ 4	3.6	15.6
66	43	Southern Vectis	58			
185	70	Surrey Fr Inns	167	+ 2	1.5	19.6
56	36	Trocadero	53			

Source: Finstat

© USM, # Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip, ▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

هكذا من الأصل

Independent steels itself for bitter battle of insurers

By Marianne Curphey

BRITISH insurers are locked in a cut-throat battle for market share which could result in small or medium-sized companies withdrawing hurt or being swallowed up, Independent Insurance said yesterday.

Michael Bright, chief executive of the small, quoted company, accused rivals of "irresponsible behaviour" in cutting rates and, as a consequence, profits in the coming months. He hinted that Independent would be keen to make an acquisition at the right price.

"Some insurers, including a number of composites, are writing business at below cost price," he said. "We believe that some operators will be forced to withdraw from the market and, therefore, we will look to take advantage of this to consolidate our position when the upturn comes. We have the resources, broker connections and capacity in place to do so."

Independent's share price rose 39p to 479p yesterday after the company reported its ninth successive year of profitable growth with pre-tax profits up 70 per cent to a record £35.5 million in the year to December 31 (£20.9 million). Gross written premiums grew 39 per cent to £411 million (£295 million).

Mr Bright's comments follow General Accident's announcement last month that it would be raising personal motor insurance premiums by an average 4 per cent. Other motor insurers have confirmed that premiums are likely to stabilise or even rise slightly. Mr Bright, however, claimed motor rates might carry on falling until the autumn.

Independent acquired La Palatine, the French insurer, last December, and Mr Bright said he intended to "take some time to digest it" before making a further acquisition. He added: "However, if the right company came along, we would bid for it. We have a strong enough balance sheet to be able to buy another company."

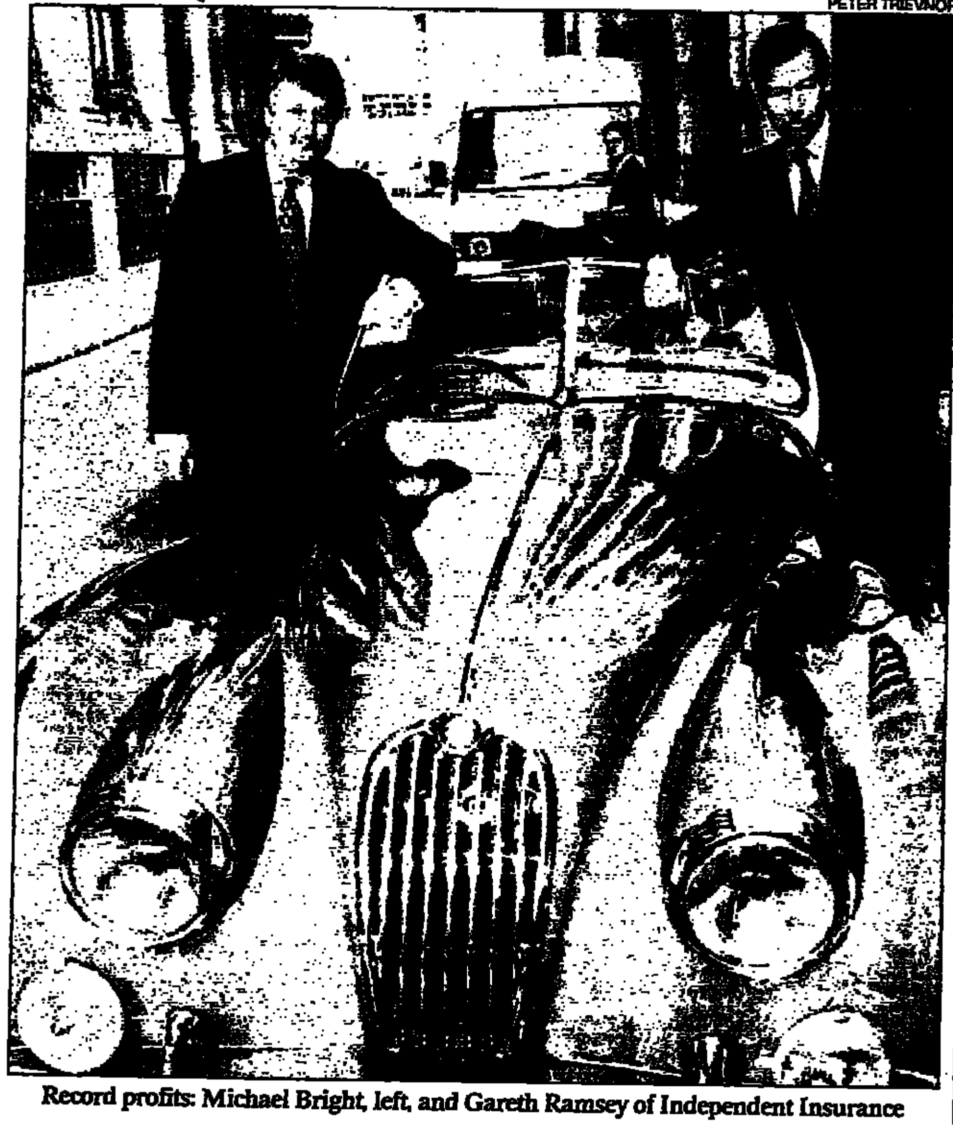
In 1994, Independent gained a signficant foothold in the London marine and protection indemnity markets through the purchase of the general insurance business of Aegon, the Dutch insurer.

Independent, which floated in 1993 at 225p per share, succeeded in a difficult market last year by carrying out frequent surveys of the commercial property it covers to ensure safety procedures are properly followed.

A final net dividend of 6.65p per share will be paid, making 11.25p for the year (9.5p).

☐ General Accident announced yesterday that it will provide services to property and casualty clients of Trygg-Hansa, the international Swedish insurer, in Europe, North America, the Middle and Far East and the Pacific Basin.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Record profits: Michael Bright, left, and Gareth Ramsey of Independent Insurance

BSM advances as the number of pupils grows

By Alasdair Murray

BSM, the driving tuition company, motored to a 10.6 per cent increase in half-year profits to £5.4 milion.

The company said that the number of pupils had increased ahead of the launch of the Government's theory test in July. While the group expects demand to return to normal levels after the summer, it is confident that its new theory-test training products will help to further boost its market share.

Paul Massey, chief executive, said that BSM was ready to take advantage of the theory test and had prepared literature in association with Virgin Publishing to be distributed through the BSM network of offices and retail outlets.

The British learner driver market has grown steadily over the past ten years mainly due to the increase in the number of second cars on the road. There were around 875,000 learner drivers on Britain's roads last year.

BSM said that after a slow summer, the numbers picked up dramatically in the autumn quarter and were 20 per cent ahead of 1994. BSM said its gross margin had stablised at around 21 per cent after slipping back earlier in the half year. The company operates off a relatively fixed cost base and said its margins improved with the influx of drivers in the autumn onwards.

Overall turnover increased 5 per cent to £24 million. The profit advance came despite no increase in the franchise fees paid by BSM instructors but benefited from a one-off £175,000 release of a pension fund provision.

The BSM network expanded, with nine new branches opened, taking the total to 148 across the country. The company expects to open a futher six this year. The average number of instructors also increased by 65 to 2,181. BSM leads the UK driving tuition market with 16 per cent.

BSM said it had 180 clients for its advanced driving courses for corporate instructors. The dividend rose 7 per cent to 6.9p, payable on May 8. Shares closed up 6p at 176p.

Hiscox agrees £35.5m purchase

Hiscox Dedicated Insurance Fund has agreed to acquire Economic Insurance Holdings for £35.5 million, the first acquisition of a DTI-approved insurance company by a Lloyd's group.

Separately, the company is to acquire the balance of 75 per cent of the Hiscox Lloyd's managing agency it does not already own.

The combined group had gross premium income of £525 million in 1995 — £450 million through Hiscox at Lloyd's and £75 million through Economic Insurance.

Highway stake

Welsh Water, the privatised utility, has made an equity investment in the concession to design, build, finance and operate the Melbourne City Linkurban highway in Australia. The project is a 22km eight-lane highway through Melbourne. Welsh Water has a stake of A$30 million (£14.9 million) in the project or 6.6 per cent of the equity.

WSP advances

WSP Group, the consulting engineering company, increased pre-tax profits to £1.8 million (£1.2 million) in 1995. Earnings were 4.7p (3.8p) a share. The total dividend is lifted to 2.2p (2p)a share, with a final 1.1p (1p) due May 7.

Lynx expands

Lynx Holdings, the UK software company, is to acquire Tesoft, the largest provider of software and systems to the Spanish automotive distribution industry, for an initial £6.44 million. Tesoft, which employs 150 people, works with motor distributors and dealers in Spain. In 1995 its pre-tax profits were £618,000 on turnover of £5.86 million.

Pendragon profits beat slow market

By Philip Pangalos

STRONG advances at the luxury end of the new car market offset a gloomier trend elsewhere in a battered automotive sector and helped Pendragon to increase its full-year profits by 18 per cent.

Past strategic moves to focus on the luxury end helped the motor distributor to lift pre-tax profits to £11.3 million in the year to December 31, up from £9.62 million last time.

Turnover, boosted by acquisition and new dealerships, advanced 30.9 per cent to £508.9 million. Trevor Finn, chief executive, said all areas of the group's business saw improved results, though the core luxury brands continued to increase market share. Pendragon had dealerships at 51 locations, involving 79 franchises. The number of locations is expected to expand to nearer 60 this year.

Pendragon, whose dealerships include BMW, Jaguar, Land Rover and Mercedes-Benz, enjoyed a 32 per cent gain in new registrations last year for the luxury, four-wheel drive and sports car sectors, at a time when overall UK new car registrations grew by a pedestrian 1.8 per cent.

Pendragon's gross profits from new car sales jumped 32 per cent to £21.6 million, while profits from used cars surged 68 per cent to £7.23 million. Profits from after-sales rose 14 per cent to £28.7 million and contract hire by 41 per cent to £5.58 million.

Mr Finn is optimistic, citing the Aston Martin, Harley-Davidson and Fiat and Alfa Romeo dealerships.

There is a final dividend of 6p (5.4p), payable on April 11, giving 9p (8.1p) for the year, from earnings up 14 per cent to 19.7p (17.3p) a share.

£2m charge covers VIP jet

Hunting makes Fokker provision

By George Sivell

HUNTING, the aviation and defence group, has been hit by the collapse of Fokker, the beleaguered Dutch aircraft maker that has has been fighting for survival since Daimler Benz, its German parent, cut a cash lifeline on January 22.

Fokker was forced to seek protection from its creditors a day later leaving Hunting saying yesterday that it is to make an "appropriate provision" in its 1995 accounts against debt due by Fokker of £2 million.

However, Hunting said any reduction in work from Fokker will not damage future prospects for Hunting's aviation division. Most of the amount owing relates to the supply of a VIP interior for a Fokker 70 aircraft which was carried out during 1995 and invoiced in December.

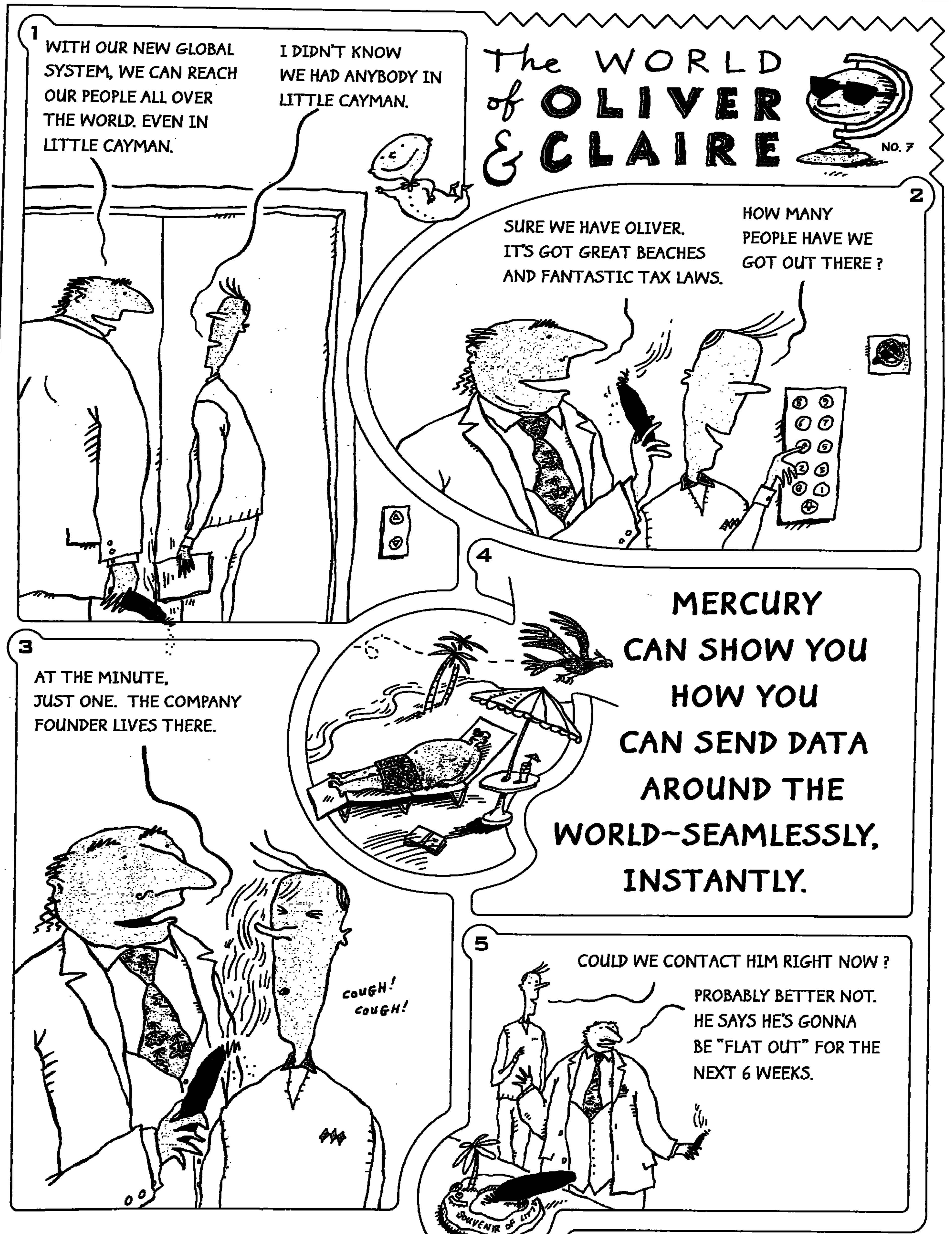
Meanwhile, Fokker is to receive an additional bank loan of ten million guilders (£4 million), the Dutch Government said. The money will be provided by ABN Amro and Nationale Investeringsbank, Hans Wijers, Economic Affairs Minister, said in a letter to the Dutch Parliament.

The Government said that the additional ten million guilders had been granted under the terms of the original credit agreement.

On March 1, Fokker won a two-week extension to a crucial 255 million guilder credit facility to keep it alive until March 15 while it carries out a search for a rescuer for its ailing business.

Because Fokker received income from aircraft deliveries, it had reduced the credit facility to 200 million guilders by March 1. The new loan raises this amount to 210 million guilders, of which 155 million guilders is guaranteed by the Dutch State.

The 76-year-old company has pinned its hopes on a takeover by a rival, such as Samsung Aerospace, of South Korea, or by winning financial backing for a new, slimmed-down Fokker which would remain in business on its own.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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	210.70	223.60	+ 2.50	0.22
Grofund Equity	279.60	297.50	+ 1.70	1.91
Grofund Euro	263.20	278.50	+ 0.70	0.60
Grofund Expt Bal	130.60	135.30		5.02
Grofund Gilt	76.43	78.79	+ 0.15	5.22
Grofund Japan	177.10	187.40	+ 0.38	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	642.30	683.30	+ 2.00	2.56
General Inc	561.70	587.00	+ 1.70	2.56
UK Growth Acc	436.30	464.20	+ 1.80	2.76
UK Growth Inc	290.70	309.30	+ 1.10	2.76
Higher Inc Acc	794.00	844.70	+ 2.80	4.12
Higher Inc Inc	441.80	470.10	+ 1.60	4.12
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	208.30	217.80†		5.52
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	93.68	97.89†	+ 0.04	5.52
Nth America	363.00	386.20	+ 5.80	
Europe	342.30	364.20	- 1.50	0.53
Brit Expat	88.70	92.24	+ 0.42	2.90
Brit Fndmtls Acc	115.10	122.50	+ 0.39	4.66
Brit Fndmtls Inc	80.62	85.77	+ 0.20	4.66
Global Opps	100.10	106.50	+ 0.20	0.22
Balanced Acc	62.66	66.67	+ 0.17	2.63
Balanced Inc	59.97	63.80	+ 0.17	2.63
Japan Acc	46.93	49.93	- 0.07	
Pac Basin Acc	428.00	455.40	+ 2.20	0.72
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129.20	137.10†	+ 0.40	7.29
High Inc Equity	181.60	194.20	+ 0.90	4.34
Worldwide Bond	289.40	306.90†	+ 0.20	4.56
American Growth	360.80	386.00	+ 3.90	0.72
Asian Pacific	353.40	378.00	+ 3.00	0.22
Assets & Earnings	303.00	322.30	+ 1.20	2.71
Euro Capital Acc	173.40	185.40	+ 0.70	0.56
Extra Inc	44.50	47.34†	+ 0.10	6.49
General	274.50	292.00†	+ 1.00	2.85
Global Opps	64.89	69.03	+ 0.22	0.43
Japan	125.20	133.90		
Managed Inc	48.24	51.32†	+ 0.18	4.53
Masterinvst	164.40	175.80	+ 0.50	1.35
US Emerging Cos	190.10	202.20	- 0.40	
Ethical	78.51	83.52	+ 0.27	2.50
International	135.90	144.60	+ 0.50	0.77
Dividend & Growth	67.74	72.08	+ 0.32	4.26
Global Gwth & Sec	71.97	76.87	+ 0.05	2.55
Latin America	60.24	64.09	+ 0.13	
Capital Reserve	142.00	142.10	+ 0.50	4.93
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2094.00	2178.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.29	60.53	+ 0.36	0.51
Emerging Mkts	73.90	77.90	+ 0.54	0.04
European	143.10	148.80†	- 0.30	
Exempt	1012.10	1079.00	+ 1.60	1.73
Extra Income #	47.08	50.38†	+ 0.12	6.75
Far East Emg Eco	134.90	141.70	+ 0.90	0.44
Fixed Interest #	23.83	24.78†	+ 0.07	9.48
Fund Inv Tst	157.00	164.90		9.44
Japan	187.00	194.50	+ 0.30	
Latin American	54.97	57.33	+ 0.52	0.85
Pacific	88.44	92.86	+ 0.43	0.28
Property Share	63.39	66.54	+ 0.13	2.64
UK Emerging Cos	69.77	75.82	+ 0.13	1.65
UK Growth	51.31	54.26	+ 0.19	2.16
Aber World Port #	82.46	83.96	+ 0.33	1.95
Ethical	76.34	79.39	+ 0.30	2.22
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.40	50.42†	+ 0.08	7.45

For AEGON see Mattress

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.84	104.33		2.45
American Portfolio	118.87	128.24		0.89
European Portfolio	123.85	131.93		0.44
High Income	50.59	51.09†	...	7.83
Japanese Portfolio	68.81	73.19†	+ 0.01	
Pacific Portfolio	162.90	175.28	+ 0.79	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	93.50	99.60		2.63
Utility & Bond	56.34	59.02		6.46
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	737.60	748.74		4.30
Fxd Int Sec	155.63	158.25		9.15
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	733.53	744.61		4.35
Investment Acc	£32.71	£33.21		
Fixed Int Inc	126.24	126.74		9.07
Fixed Int Acc	214.76	215.62		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.36	95.30		3.12
Beck Bio-Tech	49.92	53.79		
Acorn Ethical Tst	171.82	180.43		0.60
City Fin Assets	76.63	80.47		2.03
City Fin America	115.54	121.30		
City Fin Intl	93.88	98.58		0.81
City Fin Japan	150.96	158.52		
Friars Hse Cap	315.77	335.93		2.23
Friars Hse Inc	203.66	216.65		4.10
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.75	158.29		
Fairmont Cap Gth	151.44	159.41		
Fairmont Intl	162.94	171.52		
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	57.18	60.04		1.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.33	62.95†	+ 0.22	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.19	83.16	+ 0.54	
Dragon Growth	76.43	81.74	+ 0.75	0.34
Equity High Inc	90.72	96.51†	+ 0.30	4.11
-do- Accum	127.69	135.84	+ 0.42	4.11
Extra Income Inc	26.38	27.79	+ 0.11	7.44
Extra Income Acc	27.78	29.26	+ 0.11	7.44
European Gwth	60.99	64.71	- 0.28	1.02
Evergreen	30.41	32.52	+ 0.29	
General Equity	99.12	105.17	+ 0.29	2.80
Japan Growth	51.18	54.45	- 0.07	
Pedigree Gwth	60.38	64.23	+ 0.34	2.55
Pwd Sm Cos Inc	35.46	37.72	+ 0.07	1.48
-do- Accum	37.34	39.72	+ 0.07	1.48
Retirement Inc #	27.95	29.73	+ 0.19	5.87
Special Sits	45.43	48.33	+ 0.15	1.94
UK & Overseas	58.33	61.89	+ 0.30	0.75
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	67.47	70.19	+ 0.24	4.00
Capital	80.29	83.53	+ 0.25	1.62
High Income	50.74	52.78	+ 0.35	7.18
Top 50	54.12	56.30	+ 0.35	2.17
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	182.30	193.94	+ 0.40	4.51
Fixed & Convertible	41.26	43.89	+ 0.15	6.62
Monthly Inc Plus	48.92	52.04	+ 0.07	8.61
Preference Share	45.58	48.49	- 1.20	7.84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	134.51	143.10	+ 0.24	5.88
Managed Fund	76.42	81.30	+ 0.28	2.90
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.97	49.97	+ 0.09	1.63
-do- Accum	54.68	58.17	+ 0.11	1.63
UK & General	92.69	98.61	+ 0.35	2.59

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	102.40	108.00	+ 0.70	3.99
Sector Value Gwth	102.50	108.60	+ 0.80	2.19
Hy 5 Europe	101.00	105.80	+ 0.50	2.36
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	217.30	231.10	+ 1.90	
Income #	199.69	212.43	+ 0.51	4.02
UK Growth	77.41	82.34	+ 0.33	2.08
International	88.05	93.66†	+ 0.58	0.45
Ecology	100.48	106.88	+ 1.08	1.01
European	171.36	181.73	- 2.02	
Far Eastern	316.80	337.00	+ 3.60	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	25.39	27.01†	+ 0.09	1.05
UK Growth	437.41	465.32	- 0.60	2.64
-do- Accum	586.25	623.67	- 0.60	2.64
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1476.00	1497.70		2.90
Income #	1027.00	1044.39		4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	165.40		3.66

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.91	102.30†	+ 0.40	7.61
Gilt Yield	117.30	123.80†	- 0.20	6.87
Global Income	232.90	247.80†	+ 0.50	3.50
High Yield	151.80	161.50	+ 0.30	5.55
-do- Accum	483.10	513.90	+ 1.10	5.55
Smllr Cos Div	58.13	61.84†	+ 0.31	3.36
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	142.70	151.80	+ 1.60	
Asian Growth	371.60	395.30	+ 8.90	0.21
-do- Accum	436.70	464.60	+ 10.60	0.21
North American	105.50	112.20	+ 1.80	0.23
European Special	126.60	134.70	- 0.50	0.09
European	175.60	186.80	- 0.40	0.43
-do- Accum	231.60	246.40	- 0.40	0.43
Global Eqty Inc	120.10	127.50†	+ 0.30	1.60
Japan	426.90	454.10	- 0.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 088				
M & S Inv Ptflio	173.60	179.00	+ 0.40	2.23
-do- Accum	203.80	210.10	+ 0.50	2.23
UK Sel Ptflio	152.80	157.50	+ 0.40	2.45
-do- Accum	181.60	187.20	+ 0.50	2.45
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	72.47	77.09		3.78
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
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مكتبة الأصل

صكذا من الاحل

■ FILM

Oscar time again: will an Italian art movie edge out *Apollo 13* for Best Film?

■ THEATRE 1

A customs-busting yarn from Cornwall launches a season of regional companies at the Donmar

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

. . . while at the Tricycle a true story raises disturbing questions but makes a bad play

■ DANCE

Not much remains of Petipa in Northern Ballet Theatre's spirited overhaul of *Don Quixote*

Art takes on the colour of money

What hope does a subtitled film have of winning this year's Best Film Oscar? A big one, says **Geoff Brown**

Five years ago, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences thought its members might benefit from a little refresher course in the whys and wherefores of voting for Oscars. The leaflet was called *Notes on Voting*. When judging costume design, members were advised not to plump automatically for the period film with the nicest frocks, but to ponder whether the clothes pushed forward the story or characters. When judging sound, the ears should stop being impressed by loudness alone, and should consider whether the noises were smoothly engineered or "real". When it came to the Best Picture category, the Academy made the boldest suggestion of all. Forget about box-office success, it said. Just vote on artistic achievement.

It might have added: "And remember, pigs can fly!" For the Oscar ceremony has always been the occasion on which the Hollywood industry gives itself an enormous hug: and who would want to shine a spotlight on a little squirt of a film that only critics liked? In 1991, when the Academy tried out its notes on voting, *Dances With Wolves*, a film too long and big to ignore, won the Best Picture prize, along with five others. This year, nominations for Best Picture include Tom Hanks's near-fatal trip into space, *Apollo 13*, whose box-office gross worldwide tops $334 million; Mel Gibson's medieval epic *Braveheart* ($178 million at the last count); and the Australian charmer *Babe* — the film where pigs can talk, if not fly — which has earned $183 million.

But Mammon does not rule completely, and this year's Oscar contest, due to be fought on March 25, reveals a particularly interesting tussle between the demands of art and commerce. Something inside the Academy voter tells him or her that *Batman Forever*, although a money earner to rival *Apollo 13*, is not Best Picture material. It lacks dignity, importance; you can almost smell the popcorn being devoured. Genre movies like this are always assigned technical awards. Thus the Batman adventure misses out on the major categories, but wins nominations for photography, sound, and sound effects editing. The nuclear submarine drama *Crimson Tide* receives a similar fate: so does *Waterworld*.

Something inside the Academy members also tells them to rally round *Sense and Sensibility*, which received seven nominations, from Best Picture downwards. To susceptible Americans, Ang Lee's treatment of Jane Austen's novel reeks of class. Characters talk properly. They ride horses and sip tea. All the culture of the Old World is there. And it stars (and was written by) Emma Thompson — so droll, such a saint, so clever.

Yet such a civilised English-flavoured film remains an acquired taste in America. *Sense* is still in the throes of its release in America, where it has currently taken $33 million, although room for further expansion may be limited. Indeed, one exhibitors' representative, quoted in the trade paper *Variety*, suggests that it would be hard to get bookings for the film "more than 100 miles from the ocean". They ride different kinds of horses in Wyoming.

However, the truly intriguing highbrow contestant this year is not *Sense and Sensibility*, but *Il Postino*, the heartwarming tale of a simple Italian whose eyes are opened to poetry and romance when he delivers post to the exiled writer Pablo Neruda.

A subtitled film like this, which has taken $12 million in America (and double that abroad), only reaches the Academy ballot after colossal lobbying. Miramax, the American distributors, reportedly spent as much on the Oscar campaign as on acquiring domestic and world rights in the first place — $1.5 million.

During the winter months, trade papers have carried regular and tasteful advertisements rhapsodising over the merits of *Il Postino*, pointing out its peculiar status as an Italian film directed by an Englishman, Michael Radford. According to Academy rules, this precludes it as a candidate for the Best Foreign Language Film award. But spare your tears, readers. The adverts continue: "We take great pride that this remarkable motion picture remains eligible for consideration in all other Academy Award categories — including Best Actor, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture of the Year". Oddly enough, *Il Postino* has been nominated in every one of those categories, plus one more — Best Original Dramatic Score.

Miramax's manoeuvrings have concealed the fact that the film's star actor, Massimo Troisi, who died of heart disease 12 hours after shooting finished, is regarded in Italy as the film's co-director, and was credited as such on its premiere in Venice. Still, there is no doubting the film's genuine appeal to the more enlightened Academy voter. In an industry dominated by hardware movies made to a formula, *Il Postino* speaks up for ordinary human feelings.

The rest of the Best Picture candidates take off into fantasy or distant worlds. In *Braveheart*, Gibson bestrides the 13th century with wild knotted hair and a kilt. In *Babe*, a talking pig teaches lessons in gallantry and politeness. Hanks, up in the special effects sky in *Apollo 13*, relives the big drama of 1970. And, in *Sense and Sensibility*, Austen's heroines wrestle between suitors among England's rolling hills.

Il Postino is a period film too (the year is 1952). But you never feel the past as an encumbrance. Although the direction is plain and a mite lethargic, Radford and Troisi cut through to the heart of the matter — human beings.

Judged by history, *Il Postino* only has an outside chance of winning on March 25. Since the first Oscar ceremony in 1929, there have been four other foreign-language films up for Best Picture. The first was Renoir's war masterpiece *La Grande Illusion* in 1938; the most recent was Bergman's searing *Cries and Whispers* in 1973. None of them won.

But in some ways the nominations themselves are booty enough for a foreign-language film. Americans need a shove and poke with a sharp stick before they will see a subtitled film, supposing exhibitors give them the chance; and the word "Oscar" on a poster, even if it is followed by "nomination", works wonders in stimulating interest. That, ultimately, is what the Oscars are all about. Not art, just the art of putting bums on seats.

Will it be art for art's sake, money for Oscar's sake on March 25? Both the $24 million-grossing *Il Postino* (top) and the $300 million cash cow *Apollo 13* have been nominated in the Best Picture category of this year's awards

DANCE

The Don goes on

Don Quixote
Grand Theatre,
Leeds

NORTHERN Ballet Theatre's relationship to *Don Quixote* is in danger of becoming a never-ending saga, with three versions of the ballet in not many more years. The scenario of the three stagings stays largely the same: what changes are the choreographers' names: this time we have the combined effort of Christopher Gable and Michael Barrett-Pink.

Not only have Gable and his team decided to improve on Petipa's 1869 original, they have so cut and added to Minkus's score that it becomes a boggling identify-the-music challenge that includes the Minkus of *Paquita* and *La Bayadère* as well as Drigo (*Corsaire* pas de deux) and Glazunov (*Raymonda*). John Longstaff's orchestration and the company's smallish ensemble played with a depth and colour that achieved a deceptively large sound.

Not a lot remains of Petipa's original choreography, although the glittering final-act pas de deux seemed reasonably familiar, blazingly danced by Denis Malinkine and Shannon Lilly (here called Matador and His Lady).

Not a lot remains of Petipa's creaky tale either. Dulcinea, Don Quixote's imaginary ideal, now exists merely as a projected back-wall image and the Don's dream is populated by unnamed female visions. The story of Kitri and Basilio is condensed into the first act so that by its end Charlotte Broom and Daniel De Andrade — a nicely spirited pair — could both have gone home, except that Broom was also the last act's Duchess in a convoluted episode featuring Moorish slaves and a wooden horse.

Each act brings on a fresh cast of individuals: the Don and Sancho Panza are the only constants. That gives the company a fine array of meaty roles which they grasp avidly, Steven Wheeler (Don Quixote) and Jeremy Kerridge (Sancho Panza) among them. In this they are handsomely abetted by Tim Goodchild's beautiful refurbished designs.

NADINE MEISNER

THEATRE: Fine fantasy on tour from Devon and Cornwall, but real-life tragedy makes for poor drama

The haloes say hello

Little White Lies
Croydon Warehouse

ANGELS and old stepladders: Theatre Alibi's marriage of the fantastical and the lowly can be truly charming, almost transcendental. This young troupe, up from Devon (and returning to tour the South West), arrive in big black boots and wave hello.

This comically attractive threesome, a pair of gangly lads and one short sturdy lass (Emma Rice, rather like Judi Dench reincarnated as an experimental vaudevillian), dress in downbeat, wartime clothes. In what looks like a storeroom undergoing decoration — canvas, boxes, bare shelves — they conjure up other worlds. These hover between bedtime stories, religious visions and squiffy trips.

Little White Lies is a quartet of tales. An angel with elasticated gold wings is flummoxed about the quickest way from A to B by two crows in feathery bowlers. A young down-and-out slips through an open door at Oddbins and finds a blessed bottle of pink spirits that briefly lifts him to a happier world where everything is coming up roses.

Hole-in-the-wall machines throw out money like confetti. The tramp's dream-digger materialises miraculously, a steering wheel on Rice's head resembling a halo. But the drink fails to bring his father back to life.

In the third story, a photographer recalls capturing a woman's death. In the last, a nun falls in love with her gawky guardian angel who was injured saving her life but eventually flies away, moving — in a beautiful metaphor — from a lover to a son.

At points the stories progress too slowly or steer only just clear of babyishness in the clowning. But this close-knit team works with concentration as well as playfulness, generating profoundly tender moments.

They also pepper the evening with darker patches. The war-zone photographer's recurring dream is strangely disturbing. Under the beam of an ordinary anglepoise, he tells how he still sees that wounded woman in the hospital corridor. Through the shelves, we can make her out in formal profile, then tilting sideways with a rasp of breath.

The photographer, facing us, repeatedly clicks his camera. His flash, turned backwards, illuminates the blackness and the woman jolts with each flare, boots banging against a wooden box, her heart violently stopped or miraculously resuscitated by his photography.

Directed by Nikki Sved, Alibi is a tiny company of enormous, curious inventiveness. Its children's show, *Fly-By-Night*, will be playing at Wimbledon's Polka Theatre in April.

KATE BASSETT

Poor show in custody

20-52
Tricycle

CONFRONTED with a theatrical piece of this sort, where criticism of any of its shortcomings may seem an act of poor taste, I remember one of Stephen Potter's useful books, *Lifemanship*. In a list of devices that authors can use to disarm critics, he recommends the dedication: "To Phyllis, in the hope that one day God's glorious gift of sight may be restored to her." Reading that, he maintained, would stop any reviewer from being rude about the book.

F2052SH is the reference number of a Prison Services form concerning persons considered likely to injure themselves, and this play is an account of Stephanie Lightfoot-Bennett's fight to discover how her twin brother died in police custody three years ago. At Edinburgh last year, where this production won an award, she played herself and, although not expected to do so here in London, she stepped in at the last moment to repeat her performance as a battling survivor.

I admire her tenacity in calling for inquest after inquest — the third one will take place next month — and by collaborating with Jeremy Weller, the director of the Grassmarket Project, and his troupe of non-professional actors, she has clearly raised the profile of her case. But the events they choose to highlight make a dreadful play: repetitive, verbally impoverished and profoundly uninvolving. There is no point in saying otherwise.

While I hope that one day a glorious act of justice will be performed, I must point out that she has allowed herself to be presented as a cantankerous individual whose life is a mess. The devisers of the play show her arguing with her supporters, slagged off by her mother-in-law, cheated by her surviving brother and fighting her abusive husband. She even sneers at the *Times* journalist who has been championing her case but is reluctantly obliged to move on to another story.

The characters are no more than stiff thumbnail sketches put together by writers with stiff thumbs, who have no confidence in their ideas and therefore present the same few again and again.

The husband is inarticulate and jealous, the brother shifty, the man from the Commission for Racial Equality a twerp: each gets a scene with the heroine to show how unreliable he is, and how high the odds are stacked against her sanity.

Only the twerp (David Hodgson) knows how to speak dialogue, and most of the others express impatience by taking three steps this way and three steps that. The production (Weller) is tedious; the lighting a disaster. I wish the heroine well and hope that her legal advisers are better equipped than this well-meant but feeble promotion.

JEREMY KINGSTON

This much fun must be illegal

The King of Prussia
Donmar Warehouse

OVER the next five weeks the Donmar is importing work from Ireland, Wales and Scotland: but it launches its "four corners" season by introducing us to a company from a less obvious Celtic nook. Kneehigh Theatre has been touring Cornwall for the past 14 years without making any noise that has reached this particular pair of metropolitan ears. On the evidence of Mike Shepherd's production of Nick Darke's *King of Prussia*, that is my loss, and an indisputable gain for the land of caravans, lobster pots, defunct tin mines and retired pirates with parrots on their shoulders.

The title is the sobriquet of one John Carter, a late 18th-century smuggler and, in his way, as decent a man as ever left brandy in a helpful vicar's porch. He is more inclined to rescue a foe than kill him and takes his pole position in the local economy seriously. Village after village is dependent on his evading the punitive duties of the time, for person after person is involved in the booze chain; and he lets nobody down.

One of Kneehigh's qualities would seem to be a delight in story-telling. After a few moments in which I struggled to get my bearings — brains are probably nimbler in the Cornish sea air than the Seven Dials fug — I found myself fully absorbed in Darke's tall tale of a King of Prussia who takes a bet with his rival in customs-busting, the less principled wife of the eccentric scientist and seaweed fancier who owns the local castle.

Whichever of them manages to bribe the apparently incorruptible revenue officer, John Knill ("the detestable practice of cheating King George is a crime, for the poor demented monarch needs all the money he can get") will receive £100 from the other. The money is duly exchanged, but only after betrayals, forays to revolutionary France, near-death experiences and, for Knill, a three-day period suspended in a length of canvas over a cliff. Thanks to an unexpected show of female flesh below, he manages to survive the experience without too much suffering.

In Cornwall, the piece may have resonances Londoners will miss. After all, whole communities are dependent on a fishing industry they feel is imperilled by Brussels, and many people must wonder if Carter's attitude to the rules isn't the right one. But the point is put over with a sly wink, not a hammer. The mood is more merry than menacing — how could it be otherwise with a baker called Gilbert Giddy doing his bit for the smuggling syndicate? And yet things never get silly or facetious.

Clearly another of Kneehigh's qualities is agility of performance. Bill Mitchell's set consists of little more than an ad-hoc mast, a tarpaulin and the odd barrel, but that is enough. The six-person cast rattles purposefully along, turning on fresh characters as if with light switches, and picking up cues as if with electromagnets. Let's name them all: Giles King, Bec Applebee, Mary Woodvine, Charlie Barnecut, Carl Grose and, as a bright, sharp, unpretentiously chivalric King of Prussia, Tristan Sturrock. And let's hope they make another visit to the smoke very soon.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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■ CHOICE 1

Michael Bolton rolls out his greatest hits — and opera?

VENUE: Tonight at Wembley, then touring

■ CHOICE 2

The LSO pays a sixtieth birthday tribute to composer Steve Reich

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Works by Bacon and Freud go on show in *Tate on the Tyne*

VENUE: Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle

■ VISUAL ART

From painting to ballet design, and back again: the remarkable career of Nicholas Georgiadis

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MICHAEL BOLTON. For all the criticism showered on him, Bolton's schmaltzy, showboating tendencies are anchored in an extraordinarily powerful voice in the traditions of Ray Charles and Otis Redding. Currently promoting his *Greatest Hits 1985-1995* album, he will be singing plenty of old favourites, along with a special operatic interlude. Support on all dates is from America's "new classic soul" stars Solo.
Wembley Arena ♿ (0181-900 1234). Tonight, Fri and Sat. Then Mar 11: **Newcastle**, Arena ♿ (0191-401 8000); Mar 13 and 14: **Birmingham**, NEC ♿ (0121-780 4133); Mar 19: **Manchester** Arena ♿ (0161-834 4477), Mar 20: **Glasgow**, SECC (0141-248 9999).

WHAT'S ON AT THE BARBICAN: The **London Symphony Orchestra** says happy sixtieth birthday to Steve Reich, paying tribute to one of the great contemporary composers with tonight's programme of *Clapping Hands, Eight Lines, Sextet*, and *Tehillim*. Reich is joined by Neil Percy to perform *Hands Over* in the theatre, Dublin's Abbey Theatre starts its unmissable two-week visit of Frank McGuinness's classic about camaraderie under hellish fire, **Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme**

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). LSO: 7.30pm. *Dublin*: Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mats Mar 14 and Sat, 2pm. Until Mar 16. ♿

ELSEWHERE

MOLD: Artistic director Christopher Bruce and the **Rambert Dance Company** offer a programme of firm favourites on this leg of their winter tour: Bruce's own *Rooster* (set to Rolling Stones music) and *Swansong*, alongside Mark Baldwin's cheerful *Banter Banter*.
Theatr Clwyd (01352 755114). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. ♿

NORTHAMPTON: Daniel Hill plays the grasping marketing chief in Ben Elton's Green comedy **Gasping**. Michael Napier Brown directs.
Royal, Guildhall (01604 32533). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Mar 7, 14 and 21, 2.30pm; Mar 9, 16 and 23, 5.00pm. Until Mar 30 ♿

NEWCASTLE: Tate on the Tyne has just opened, featuring the best of the Tate's contemporary art purchased over the last decade. Established British names like Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and Richard Long are side-by-side with cutting edge works and controversial artists such as Turner prize-winner Antony Gormley, and Cornelia Parker's exploded garden shed.
Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2pm-5pm. Until May 12. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . . . **British Museum:** Images from the Western Lake: revival of colour print in contemporary China (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward:** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . . **Leighton House:** At Home with Lord Leighton (0171-602 3316) . . . **National Gallery:** At Home with Constable's *Cornfield* (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** The Room in View (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine:** Jean-Michel Basquiat: paintings (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate:** Cézanne (0171-887 8000/0990-681 010) . . . **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ **House full, returns only**
- ◪ **Some seats available**
- □ **Seats at all prices**

□ **1953:** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. An interesting conceit that nearly works. Impressive acting.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

□ **CHAPTER TWO:** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's comedy. Not his best.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

□ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED):** The RSC (Reduced Shakespeare Company) arrive with their popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Previews tonight, 8pm, opens Thurs, 7pm ♿

□ **GULP FICTION:** Eddie Nestor and Robbie Gee (from *The Posse*) play two ex-cons strangely named Reggie and Ronnie, who find life back in the East End a tough challenge after the easy years behind bars. A buoyant evening.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Tonight-Sat, 8pm. Final week. ♿

◪ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT:** Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a brief revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6082). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

◪ **SKYLIGHT:** Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. A National Theatre transfer.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

□ **PRESENT LAUGHTER:** Peter Bowles is Gary Essendine in Noël Coward's exaggerated self-portrait of a star pursued by devotees. Caroline Langrishe and Deborah Grant co-star.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◪ **TOMMY:** Pete Townshend's famous musical stars the 19-year-old Paul Keating as the pinball wizard, with Kim Wilde as his mum.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

□ **VALLEY SONG:** Athol Fugard's first play since the end of apartheid interestingly mourns aspects of the past while welcoming, with degrees of enthusiasm, the future. Fugard himself acts two roles.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm. Final week.

□ **THE WAY OF THE WORLD:** Congreve's most famous comedy of love frustrated and fulfilled. Roger Allam and Fiona Shaw interesting as the lovers, Geraldine McEwan outstanding as a tragic Lady Wishfort.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.15pm. Final performances. ♿

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

LA MADRE MUERTA (18): Murderer becomes obsessed with the child witness to a killing. Perverse Spanish psychodrama directed by Juanma Bajo Ulloa.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

STRANGE DAYS (18): Uncomfortable apocalyptic drama, with Ralph Fiennes as a trafficker in virtual reality. With Angela Bassett. Director, Kathryn Bigelow.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **WHEN SATURDAY COMES** (15): Can Sean Bean make the grade with Sheffield United? Do we care? With Emily Lloyd. Director, Maria Giese.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeon West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Director, Joe Johnston.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

Stage designer Nicholas Georgiadis tells **Anna Kythreotis** why he is painting again

Dancing to an old tune

Members of the audience at the first performance of Kenneth MacMillan's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* in 1965 still speak of the gasps of astonishment that accompanied every curtain rise and scene change at the Royal Opera House that night. The solid architectural sets and weightily elaborate costumes by the Greek designer Nicholas Georgiadis were unprecedented in an art form predicated on the illusion of gauzy ethereality.

That the verismo style should have been introduced to ballet by Georgiadis was all the more remarkable, given that he was then also working with considerable success as an abstract artist — a parallel career he abandoned abruptly more than 20 years ago and has only recently resumed.

"My painting had become sterile, so I stopped," Georgiadis says. "I felt I was following received ideas about abstraction, and I decided not to paint again until I had a totally personal idea about what I wanted to do."

The new work, some of which was first seen in Athens last year, is now being shown in London. Although figurative, the paintings, in oil and acrylic, have a surreal edge — a visual equivalent of the literary "magic realism" of the South American fabulists — that will surprise those who know Georgiadis's stage work. The only element common to both is the artist's preoccupation with colour.

During the hiatus Georgiadis's name has become more familiar to ballet, opera and theatre audiences than to contemporary art critics. His list of credits includes designs for the Met, La Scala and the Vienna State Opera, although it is with MacMillan, principal choreographer of the Royal Ballet until his death in 1993, that Georgiadis is most immediately associated.

Their collaboration on major three-act dramatic ballets, notably *Romeo and Juliet, Manon* and *Mayerling*, as well as a score of one-act productions, created some of the most potent and indelible dance images of all time, and the most enduring work in the contemporary repertoire.

The Invitation, made 36 years ago, is currently being performed at Covent Garden. Like the rest of Georgiadis's work it does not show its age. "It was my great fear that *The Invitation* would look old-fashioned, and it doesn't — thank God."

Asked to explain the timelessness of his designs, Georgiadis chooses his words carefully. "I was not influenced by the fashions of the time, and I was never intimidated by the terrorism of the avant-garde. The most fatal thing is to base design on anything which is fashionable in art. If you avoid this, there is a possibility that the work will survive."

His representational style (of which *The Invitation* is one of the earliest examples) was Georgiadis's instinctive reaction to the ballet narratives, eventually replacing the traditional scenery of ballet — painted backcloths and trompe l'oeil — with three-dimensional structures that became integrated into the dynamics of the choreography to an extent which often surprised even his own collaborators. When Dame Ninette de Valois, founder-director of the Royal Ballet, saw the sets for *Las Hermanas* she thought Georgiadis had mistakenly designed them for a play.

In fact, it was de Valois who discovered Georgiadis when she took MacMillan (another of her discoveries) to the Slade School of Fine Art to find a designer for *Danses Concertantes*, MacMillan's first work for Covent Garden. Georgiadis was there on a scholarship, studying painting and theatre design, after qualifying as an architect in Athens and New York. They chose him, and that collaboration lasted until MacMillan's final ballet, *The Prince of the Pagodas* in 1990.

Georgiadis was also the favoured designer of Rudolf Nureyev — despite frequent disagreements. "Nureyev had a very traditional view of things, so there was always a fight," he says. "The idea that I was setting the *Nutcracker* we did for Paris Opera in the Chekhovian period made him ill. He would phone and tell me I was giving him sleepless nights."

Georgiadis, who is currently working on *Oedipus Tyrannus* for the Epidaurus Festival, regrets that he has not done more film work (he designed Cacoyannis's *The Trojan Women*, with Katherine Hepburn as Hecuba, and the ballet reconstructions for Herbert Ross's *Nijinsky*). "With film you know that the design image you create is recorded permanently and is always seen in the way you intended, unlike stage productions which deteriorate with age, wear and lack of maintenance," he says. "A designer can't go out on stage and apologise to the audience for the poor condition of the sets and costumes," he adds, in a tone that suggests this may be something he has considered.

● Nicholas Georgiadis *is at the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, 60 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-499 9826) until March 30.* The Invitation *is part of a quadruple bill at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (0171-304 4000) until March 15*

KATE TSEKENIS

The fruits of Nicholas Georgiadis's return to painting are now to be seen in London

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT IS not often that one is told of a living painter that a one-man show in London is "his first and very probably his last". The reason in Philip Kelly's case lies in his peripatetic career. He arrived penniless in Mexico City in 1983, but soon his paintings made their mark, and within two years he was something of a local celebrity. Then came the 1985 earthquake, which killed his wife and child and destroyed all his work. He spent the next four years in Europe, but the pull of Mexico was too strong, and he returned.

The reason that the show at the Westbourne Gallery may well be his last for some time in his native land is that, with his success in Mexico and now in New York, there are just not enough paintings to go round.

The work itself is at once recognisably British and decidedly un-British. The British side is probably an accident: a resemblance in the way Kelly puts on paint to Auerbach and (particularly) Kossoff seems to come from his physical method, by which he paints on the floor. His subject-matter is almost entirely urban landscape and the interiors of bars and eating places. His colours are brilliant. The combination is personal and extraordinary.
Westbourne Gallery, 62 Westbourne Grove, W2 (0171-727 7909) until March 17

□ It is odd how the most conservative British art-lovers seem to have been disarmed by wood-engraving and lino-cutting, accepting without demur stylistic initiatives which in painting would have been met with rejection. **Off the Block**, the large and varied show of 20th-century British prints at the Mercury Gallery, demonstrates this again and again. Most obviously, of course, in the brightly coloured futuristic lino-cuts of the so-called Grosvenor School, which blithely reduce subjects such as a Paris omnibus to dazzling decorative patterns. But there are also bobs towards surrealism in the work of John Banting and Grace Pailthorpe, Vorticist abstractions in Edward Wadsworth, and the sophisticated simplicities of Eric Ravilious.
Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 7800), until Saturday

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OPERA

Silbersee is staged in Dessau as Kurt Weill's home town begins a festival in his honour

MUSIC 1

Boldness and vigour comes from Nikolaus Harnoncourt in a night of authentic Haydn

THE TIMES

ARTS

MUSIC 2

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MUSIC 3

. . . and Heinrich Schiff is among an array of fine cellists displaying their talents

Why the Nazis feared Weill

OPERA

Der Silbersee
Anhaltisches Theater, Dessau

Could Weill become to Dessau what Handel is to Halle and Bach to Leipzig? It is an engaging thought, and one doubtless passing through the minds of the city fathers and Anhalt Land politicians as, after modest beginnings, the fourth Kurt Weill Festival runs through the week, focusing on a slap-up new production of *Der Silbersee* and supported by concerts of both his secular and religious music.

Dessau has not been kind to Weill. The synagogue where his father was cantor was destroyed by the Nazis, and his birthplace was demolished under the DDR. Nor has the 20th century been kind to Dessau, the seat of a not-very-grand Gérolstein-style duchy: industrialisation, heavy wartime bombing, hideous rebuilding, general economic and social depression.

But things are looking up. Gropius's magnificent 1925 Bauhaus survived everything and is once more in full swing: his entrancing suburban villas are being tidied up — one of them houses the new Kurt Weill Centre — and the 18th-century pavilions and parks on the outskirts of the town are slowly being restored. There are two outstanding Cranachs in the half-refurbished Anhalt Picture Gallery just behind the railway station.

And there is the Anhaltisches Theater, which opened with pomp in 1938 in the presence of various unmentionable people. It was bombed, and rebuilt as it was in 1949, a fine example of totalitarian architecture which, as Osbert Lancaster reminded us, recognises no distinction between left and right. The stage is larger than Bayreuth's, and the comfortable auditorium seats just over 1,000. It houses precisely the sort of busy municipal ensemble giving opera, drama, musicals and ballet for which Weill wrote *Silbersee*. Composer and town could indeed do a lot for each other.

Silbersee was Weill's last work for the German theatre. It was given simultaneous premieres in nearby Leipzig, Magdeburg and Erfurt in February 1933, and was a sensational success; the Reichstag fire followed nine days later, performances were suppressed, and Weill fled to Paris.

A rewarding evening involved brilliant, unashamedly epic acting from the tenor Gerhard Siegel, centre, as the unemployed worker Severin

It has always been considered a "problem" piece, being a play by Georg Kaiser with music by Weill, and thus requiring actors as well as singers; so does *White Horse Inn* (1930), which by delightful coincidence is in the Dessau repertory in a charming and authentically tacky staging. There have never been problems about Benatzky's piece, so why are there in Weill's?

The non-problems vanished in the highly accomplished Dessau production, which was given under the aegis of the drama company with a couple of guests from the opera ensemble. No seams showed: you had to look up in the theatre yearbook to find out which were actors and which were singers — which is as it should be. A shortened but perfectly coherent version of Kaiser's text was played, and the music was extremely well conducted by Karl-Heinz Zettl.

The only arguable problem was the decision of the joint directors, Helmut Strassburger and Ernstgeorg Hering, to put the audience on stage and some of the action in the auditorium. Orchestral sound was muffled and seating capacity limited to 250. This is the sort of "idea" that one has after a good dinner and should discard at breakfast the next day.

Otherwise, the evening was enormously rewarding: brilliant, unashamedly epic acting from Gerhard Siegel (a fine tenor) as the unemployed worker Severin, and Karl Thiele as the policeman who wounds and then befriends him; no-holds-barred bourgeois villains in Regula Steiner and Konrad Rupf; Stefanie Wüst charming as Fennimore, who gets to sing the rip-roaring *Ballad of Caesar's Death*. The many small roles were all expertly taken. Ensemble lives! And you saw precisely why the Nazis feared Weill so much: the combination of his music and Kaiser's *faux-naïf* text is lethal — "ten times tougher than any Brecht play" in the words of the original director, Douglas Sirk.

Over last weekend's other main offering, a wretchedly badly played and sung *Dreigroschenoper* (music only), it would be kind to draw a veil: the promoters will need to exercise stricter quality control if the Dessau Weill Festivals are to take off internationally. But it served to emphasise just how much Weill had changed as a composer in the five years between the two works. The waltz that ends *Silbersee* leads straight to Broadway. Contrary to received opinion, there really was only one Weill.

RODNEY MILNES

JAZZ

Comedy in store

Billy Jenkins
Purcell Room

BILLY JENKINS, southeast London's answer to Victor Borge (with a dash of Spike Jones thrown in), has been highlighting the absurdities liberally thrown up by popular culture in general, and jazz in particular, since 1982, when his seminal recording, *Sounds Like Bromley*, first hit the shops. His latest venture, a collaboration between members of his Voice of God Collective and the brass and reeds quartet, Fun Horns of Berlin, has a veneer of respectability — the tour was funded in part by the Arts Council and this concert recorded by Radio 3 — but underneath, Jenkins remains a uniquely eccentric iconoclast.

There were clenched-fist salutes to Bert Weedon and Jarvis Cocker, jokey references to Ronnie Scott and his recent report on jazz, patches of Radio 3-baiting and a wealth of similar satirical business, but, crucially, the seven musicians with Jenkins generally played poker-faced straightmen to his all-licensed fool. The Fun Horns proved to be a superbly tight, well-drilled unit, whether adding meat to Jenkins's R&B-type arrangements or performing their own neat material, and VOGC regulars — bassist Steve Watts, drummer Martin France and pianist Huw Warren — all coped with their leader's sudden calls for everything from Marvin Gaye-type smoochy slinkiness to heavy metal with remarkable aplomb.

It is Jenkins himself, though, who commands attention throughout, even when he is just sitting appreciating the others' efforts. Like Borge, he infuses everything he does with droll, dry humour. Thus not only the overtly amusing features but also the superficially "serious" passages of hectic, scrabbling group improvisation, are all grist to Jenkins's comedic mill.

Since Jenkins's natural habitat is the small, intimately informal jazz club, the relative primness of the South Bank might have handicapped a less adaptable artist. Jenkins, though, from the moment he stepped on stage to read a witty excuse-postcard from an absent band member to his closing feature, *Jazz Had a Baby — and They Called It Avant-garde*, had the audience in the palm of his hand.

CHRIS PARKER

CONCERTS: Great period-instrument pioneers return to London; and jazz comes to the Fifties Festival with a tribute to Miles Davis

Calm after the Sturm

Concentus Musicus/ Harnoncourt
Barbican

IT IS 43 years since Nikolaus Harnoncourt founded Vienna Concentus Musicus, and 39 years since they gave their first concert (they practised for four years to get it right). But any notion that Monday's all-Haydn programme was played by a band of doughty pioneers, long ago outclassed by the smooth virtuosi of younger ensembles, may be swiftly dispelled.

Period-instrument playing is certainly smoother these days. Another word would be blander. But for audacity, provocation and thrills, Harnoncourt and his orchestra remain a class apart.

That was apparent from the first bars of the Symphony No 52. Horn staccatos stung like hailstones; strings dug ferociously into their furious semiquavers. If anybody needed a vivid demonstration of what the *Sturm und Drang* movement meant to music, this was it.

Then came a remarkable change. Suddenly the string players were stroking fur; the phrasing was limpid as a lily: the mood one of elegant pathos. Only Harnoncourt would dare to suggest that Haydn meant to encompass such polarities in a single movement.

Some of Concentus Musicus's habits irritate as much today as 20 years ago: the affectation of shading off slow-movement phrases so completely that the last chord is all but inaudible: the exuberant but also undeniably over-the-top hammering of any chord marked with an accent, and quite a few that aren't. And when period instruments are played with such extrovert abandon there are bound to be accidents. Harnoncourt demands that all the tricks be done without safety-net. That can upset those who prefer music-making to sound neat and careful.

But set that against the humour, the unsuspected depths, the glories of orchestral texture, that he uncovers. For the Symphony No 31, the "Hornsignal", he divided his four superb natural-horn players, two each side of the orchestra. The effect was blood-curdling. And again there was remarkable contrast, this time with the characterful flute, violin, cello and double bass soloists within the ensemble.

Sandwiched between the symphonies came vocal music. Barbara Bonney sang two arias from Haydn's operas with luscious tone, marred only by a tendency to start high notes slightly flat before settling properly. However, in the tremendous challenge of the *Scena di Berenice* — an astonishing work with wild modulations that anticipate the spirit of *verismo* by a century — she was fully focused both in passion and pitch.

RICHARD MORRISON

Across the popular divide

London Sinfonietta/ Stenz
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FOR THE first time in the ongoing "Towards the Millennium" survey of this century's music, part of a concert has been devoted to popular music of the day.

In the London Sinfonietta's concert on Monday featuring the 1950s, we heard the first live British performances of two Miles Davis-Gil Evans suites — works without which it would be hard to capture the spirit of the decade.

Extending the scope of this series towards crossover styles is, of course, something that has been done in previous years, but it was especially fruitful here: not because in the 1950s much contemporary "classical" music was so bleak, but because more than ever composers were crossing the popular divide in both directions.

Davis himself was conservatory-educated, and many "serious" composers were taking inspiration from the music around them in everyday life.

Monday's conductor, Markus Stenz, put together an exciting programme reflecting this; and, side-stepping jazz but remaining in the 1950s, he added Takemitsu's *Requiem for Strings* as a tribute to the Japanese composer who died a fortnight ago.

Stenz was also the only person on the platform visibly enjoying the opening work: the players had a look of tense concentration as they dispatched Conlon Nancarrow's Study No 7 with panache. Originally written for the player-piano because of its complex, superhuman demands, the music sounded quirky and adventurous here: the arrangement preserves the webs of sound and the attack of the player-piano, and uses even the winds percussively.

Bernd Alois Zimmermann's radical modernism was balanced with an anarchic interest in jazz. His trumpet concerto, *Nobody knows de trouble I see*, builds inexorably towards a big-band sound, before dying back to a chord consisting of all 12 notes. One of the great modern trumpet concertos, it demands almost unbroken virtuosity from the soloist during its quarter-hour duration, and received it from John Wallace.

Joanna MacGregor was the admirable soloist in John Cage's Prepared Piano Concerto, delicate and caressing in the whimsical musing the piano provides as contrast to the orchestra's arid dreamscape. The versatile MacGregor was no less at home with the stark jazz of Thelonious Monk's short solo, *Ask Me Now*, which formed a perfect link to the evening's second half.

Two Evans sidemen, Guy Barker and the veteran Lew Soloff, brought bright and poignant authenticity to the Davis-Evans venture. But, versatile though the London Sinfonietta players are, the suite from *Miles Ahead* lacked real grit and refused to go with much of a swing. Three numbers from *Sketches of Spain* were far more evocative, especially the Moorish *Pan Piper* and the memorable trumpet dialogue sequence in *Solea*. Far more effective than most composers' attempts at Spanishry, this music justified its place here on the grounds of its true originality.

JOHN ALLISON

Cellos get a chance to party

Ralph Kirshbaum et al/ Wigmore Hall
OAE/ Schiff/ Queen Elizabeth Hall

NINE cellos in one evening, and not an orchestra in sight. But this was the 50th birthday of **Ralph Kirshbaum** and the 35th anniversary of the evening when Jacqueline du Pré made her London debut at the Wigmore Hall. What better place for the party? And what better reason than in support of the appeal set up in du Pré's memory for the new concert hall at St Hilda's College, Oxford?

Not all nine cellists played all of the time. But they got together — Ralph Kirshbaum, Steven Isserlis and assorted former pupils including Antonio Lysy and Robert Max — to play *Les Rois Mages*, a sombre little interlude in an oratorio called *The Manger* written by Pablo Casals. Each voice entered, with its own distinct character, as the learned fugue of the Three Wise Men doggedly followed its own musical star. And then a flutter of gruff pizzicato and a high, bright human voice: the Bogota-born soprano Juanita Lascarro led the cellos in the haunting vocalise of the fifth of Villa-Lobos's *Bachianas Brasileiras*.

David Popper, the Prague-born Paganini of the cello, pitted Kirshbaum and Isserlis against each other in his Suite in G major, published in 1876 and an unashamed piece of salon virtuosity. Isserlis, the lower voice of the two, threatened to play Kirshbaum off the stage, vaulting through his bass part while Kirshbaum valiantly stretched for the horribly fast, horribly high notes assigned to him.

Kirshbaum's own thoughtful and perceptive musicianship showed itself well enough in Brahms's E minor Sonata and in Debussy's Cello Sonata, in which his pianist was Peter Frankl — and what fiery flashes of imagination there were in this piano playing. This concert also, significantly, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Kirshbaum-Frankl partnership.

If Kirshbaum is the sensitive singer and conversationalist and Isserlis the leonine virtuoso of the cello, then **Heinrich Schiff** is the bustling great bear. His Queen Elizabeth Hall concert with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment was also something of a cello-fest: for Georg Christoph Wagenseil's Sonata in A after the interval, Schiff found himself in the company of the OAE's own principal cellists, Timothy Mason and Susan Sheppard, with Chi-Chi Nwanoku and her double-bass keeping them in mischievous order.

The composer was much admired by the likes of Mozart and Burney; the work was a bold exercise in *galanterie*, with a loose-limbed introduction of occasional harmonic vagary, a sighing slow(ish) movement and a pert little closing minuet.

Haydn's Cello Concerto in C, conducted from the bow, as it were, by Schiff, was drawn with brisk, brusque strokes, figuration flying, ornaments twirling into place, and Schiff's sturdy fingers studiously avoiding any vibrato except in the case of emergency. This was a performance which lived on its nerves: for every note and phrase that was freshly and excitingly re-examined and re-inflected, a half a dozen or so notes would get lost in the hurly-burly. Flecks of perspiration flew, eyes flashed, and many a smile was exchanged on stage as well as in the auditorium.

HILARY FINCH

One great show after another

THE TIMES
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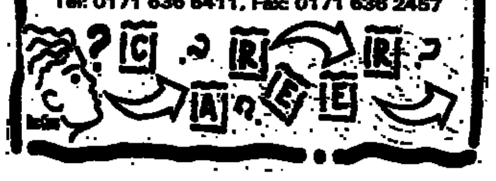

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Will new technology replace the boss's personal assistant? **Jennai Cox** talks to a woman whose mission is to safeguard their future

Champion of the office secretary

The private girls' school she attended might not remember Amanda Fone. She was expected to manage only two Es at A level and told she was not "university material".

In the event she achieved Bs in history and English. Since then she has been head of the college leaver division of a leading recruitment agency, runner-up in the 1994 *Cosmopolitan* Young Woman of the Year awards, and has helped to launch the "Take your daughters to work" initiative.

Last year, at 32, she became chairman of Fasttrack, an organisation helping secretaries to do the very thing she has had to do for herself — develop their careers. "I firmly believe people can do whatever they want to," she says. "Fasttrack is here to help them."

The idea for the organisation took seven years to develop before its London launch in June last year. In eight months 1,200 secretaries have joined and branches have been started in Birmingham and Bristol. The target membership is 10,000 with branches around the world. Ms Fone wants to recruit at least 4,000 of those by the end of this year.

"There are 750,000 secretaries in Britain," she says. "And our research indicates they all want help, guidance, encouragement and knowledge."

Ms Fone is qualified to offer it. She started as a receptionist for Angela Mortimer Recruitment after a talk given at secretarial college by its founder. "She was the first person who made going out to work seen like fun. I started at the bottom, which is where you begin to make an impact," she says. Having worked her way up, today she listens to what those now at the grass roots are saying.

"When you are interviewing secretaries every day you hear the reasons they are leaving their jobs," she says. "You build up a familiarity with that end of the market place. We felt there was a need to start providing some of the answers."

Facing awkward issues is important at Fasttrack and among those up for discussion this year are "Technology replaced the manager, will it replace the secretary?" and "The secretary as the office wife".

"We are not afraid of being unpopular," Ms Fone says. "There are issues people do not want to address, but we are not going to pat secretaries on the back and say, 'There, there, everything will be all right'. We are saying, 'Wake up, there is a changing world out there, have you thought about your place in it?'"

Ms Fone says: "We interview hundreds of secretaries each year and we are saying it is up to them to go out and make something of their future. Fasttrack will provide the infrastructure but our success depends on their success."

Fasttrack members are offered courses, talks, career advice and a monthly magazine, through which the organisation introduces ideas it thinks secretaries should be considering.

"Anything can happen. I call it the hockey stick factor," Ms Fone says. "It takes a long time then, all of a sudden, whoosh, people find themselves out of a job because they didn't know what was going on around them. Secretaries need to keep their ears and eyes open."

> 'Secretaries need to keep their ears and eyes open or they could find themselves out of a job'

Women's development has long been a fascination for Ms Fone who would be happy to remain chairman for ever. It is a mind-set, she says. "I love my job, and so much of what I think anyway is connected with it." Not due back from maternity leave until April, Ms Fone has spent her time setting up an office at home. Twelve-week-old Oliver has had to fit in with her plans and was sleeping through the night within days.

"I don't care what anyone says, you have to discipline babies like adults. I learnt on day 15 that a bottle-feed just before bedtime makes them sleep through the night and the next morning I was mentally alert and able to get back to work," she says. She hired a maternity nurse to teach her how to juggle baby and career. It was the most terrifying experience, she says. "I said I had to learn fast because I love my baby and my career and want to balance them and do both well. I know that it's not going to be easy."

Managing her time effectively is a goal Ms Fone has set herself for 1996 and, with the trend to part-time work, she says it is a subject all secretaries should be considering. A Fasttrack workshop on teleworking is set for March 21.

When she is not at work or caring for Oliver, Ms Fone relaxes by swimming and playing tennis with her husband, a freelance racing correspondent. She also helps her mother to run National Youth Ballet, a charity, and loves entertaining. She watches *Panorama* and *World in Action* because "they are asking questions" and reads at least one newspaper a day. For escapism she turns to classics such as Jane Austen. "I love reading about the way things used to be and thinking yes, but can they be done differently now? I loved history at school."

History and sport aside, she has few other happy memories of school life. Sent to boarding school at 13 she missed her younger brother and sisters, but says she benefited in other ways. "I learnt to choose my friends well and stand on my own two feet, which is one of the most important things you can teach a child." It is also what she is urging Fasttrack members to do.

Merit, perhaps something Ms Fone was not credited with at school, is the only requirement to joining the organisation she now heads. "We don't care where you come from, what your name is or how much money you have," she says. "All we want to know is whether you want to do a job and do it well. With the right attitude, you have to succeed."

It is the philosophy Ms Fone says she lives and breathes. There is little doubt it is working well for her.

TONY WHITE

Amanda Fone of Fasttrack: "We are not afraid of being unpopular"

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A new post has been created for the Vice President of an International IT company.
Our client requires someone with exceptional communication skills, a mature and extremely professional approach to work and people. The successful applicant will be adaptable and flexible for changing priorities and deadlines. You must be able to demonstrate at least Director level secretarial experience, have Email, W4W6, Excel, Powerpoint knowledge, shorthand and be able to travel.
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Good communication skills with a flexible & mature approach
Reception experience with excellent presentation Age: Open
Call Julia Davis on 0181 878 0394
Astley Wharton Davis
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE MANAGER
£13-15,000 + Age 23-30
Business Centre High St. Ken
Good organisational skills & typing
Presentable mature approach & lots of client contact
Call Julia Davis on 0181 878 0394
Astley Wharton Davis
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

SUPER SECRETARIES

T·E·N
TELEVISION
EDUCATION
NETWORK

RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY/PA

£14,000

Sociable, confident and capable individual *required for all-round* position with expanding video subscription company.

S/board and excellent telephone manner, 50 wpm, Windows, admin skills and ability to assist at all levels. Hours 8.30am - 5.30pm.

CV's to Kate Hall, Television Education Network, 15/17 Jockeys Fields, London WC1R 4BW by Weds 13th March

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FRIENDLY and informal yet highly professional company based in the heart of South Kensington require a motivated 'people person' with *fine eye for* detail and excellent telephone manner. Would suit someone wishing to return to the workforce and to a busy office which is the market leader in a very specialised service industry. *Please call Sarah Bell* on 0171 225 1655

RECEPTION SELECTION

CITY Headhunters, beautiful offices and interesting job for Receptionist with some typing and six to twelve months relevant experience. Probably not *suitable for a graduate,* qualities sought include immaculate appearance, first class interpersonal skills and likely age range early to mid twenties. Salary flexible but not more than *£15,000. Call Sue Doughty* (Rec Con) 0171 491 7911.

ELEGANT, front line receptionist *for this W.1 attorneys. Personality and charm are prerequisite for this post liaising with* international clients plus w.p. skills. Career Design 0171 489 0889

RECEPTION - £13,000 + good bens. Extremely smart reception area in a professional City based Executive Search firm, need a friendly receptionist to meet and greet all their very important clients. Plenty of variety and things to do, people to meet and functions to organise. If you have relevant experience, can type and want to be part of a successful company. Please call Esther on 0171 434 4512 Rec. Cons.

RECEPTIONIST £16,500 City based Law Firm requires a capable and professional Receptionist to join their team. If you are smart, friendly and helpful and enjoy providing an excel*lent service on the front line.* please call Diane Fitzgerald (Meridian Rec Cons) 0171 256 1666 or fax CV 0171 487 3018

TWO receptionists required for exciting media companies. These positions will appeal to bright, articulate individuals who are confident and outgoing. Typing 45 wpm+ and at least 6 months reception experience - 12K. Please call Monique Cooke or Lisa Kelly at Graduate Appointments 0171 379 0333.

Receptionist/Copy Typist
(min. 40 wpm) wanted.
Previous experience essential.
Must be well presented.
CVs to: Personnel Department
Planet Internet UK Ltd
The KPN Building
Meridian Gate
221 Marsh Wall
London
E14 9FH

RECEPTIONIST - SBC WARBURG
£14,000
This high profile investment bank has an immediate opening for a receptionist with a minimum of two years experience. The ideal candidate will enjoy a front-line role, greeting clients and assisting with inquiries. Smart, professional appearance essential.
Please contact JANE *DIXON Tel 0171 711* 2161

NON-SECRETARIAL

ABSOLUTLEY FABULOUS. Full time income for a part-time hours. Call 01245 357866

ADAPTABLE, calm, hardworking person (19-40) to help run London's leading babysitting agency. Relevant experience helpful: sense of humour essential. Salary good. Personnel Recruitment 0171 938 8247

£18,500 + Bonus for librarian/researcher in leading *City Management Consultancy.* Suit energetic and organised graduate with relevant experience in blue-chip commercial environment & an interest in business. King & Toben Recruit*ment 0171 629 9648*

DTP Publications £18,500 Major City law firm seek exp DTP with Pagemaker, Powerpoint, Coral Draw and W4W for busy *publications team. Responsible* for creating presentations ideally 21-30. A levels, 1+ years exp Career Design 0171 489 0889

HOME-BASED *Career* Management potential. Part-time/full-time - flexible hours. Excellent financial rewards. Tel: (01920) 871944.

OPERATIONS MANAGER £24,000 NEG. Professional trade body in W1. Supervisory experience, ability to make presentations, run meetings and think *on your feet!* Trade body, recruitment or service industry experience useful. 0171 493 7001 Secretaries Plus Rec.Cons

SALES ASSISTANT for collectors' items and antiques: top retail experience and a stable career history required. Busy, happy atmosphere. Please telephone Sophie Martin on 0171 629 8811 or send CV to Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1Y 1AA.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

FULHAM Estate agent req a lettings negotiator 25/35 with energy, drive & determination to succeed Exp preferred Excellent salary + comm + generous car allowance Call Peter Woods on 0171 736 1166

SENIOR Lettings Negotiator required to join motivated lettings team of one of London's leading independent agents, based in Kensington. Excellent career prospects Salary £12K + comm + car For more information call Estate Agency Recruitment on 0171 938 3855

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

URGENTLY REQUIRED....

FOR LONG & SHORT-TERM TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS.
EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL
EXCELLENT RATES!!

TEL: STEPHANIE 0171 499 7747.

REC CONS

Lifeline
A Helping Hand in Recruitment

BANKING & LEGAL *LA CREME*

Banking Opportunities x3
£15,000 - £19,000
Plus Excellent Benefits

City based Merchant Bank requires articulate, professional Secretarial Administrators with stable financial backgrounds. Confident and outgoing personalities with lots of initiative essential, as is 60 wpm typing and knowledge of Windows/Excel. Candidates must be educated to O'Level standard or, ideally suit graduate *calibre.*

Please fax CV's to Talisman Secretarial (Rec Cons) on (0171) 630 6318 or phone (0171) 828 2727.

HR &K HARRIS ROSENBLATT & KRAMER

LEGAL SECRETARY/PA

to work for the Head of the Employment Law Department.

Previous experience together with Wordperfect skills are essential. We are an expanding firm of Holborn Solicitors and are offering an excellent salary and benefits package.

Please send full CV to:-

Miss E M Cammock
Harris Rosenblatt & Kramer
26/28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE
(No Agencies)

LEGAL SECRETARY TO TRAIN INTO RECRUITMENT

Capital Law Appointments is one of London's newest and most successful legal secreatrial recruitment agencies. Due to client demand we are now planning to expand into the Australian market. As such we are now looking to recruit a legal secretary who would welcome the challenge of training into this cpmetitive and demanding industry. The successful applicant will be trained in London over a 2 year period before relocating to the planned Australian office. Applicants with immense drive, excellent interpersonal skills and business acumen, together with a sound legal secretarial background are required for this post. Age is open. Salary and benefits package to be discussed. Capital Law Appointments is an egual opportunities employer.

All applications in writing to, Capital Law Appointments, 39-40 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DE.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

PROPERTY Negotiator. London's most exciting and progressive agent is expanding. Harness *your already proven skills to a* company who will enable you to earn your worth. Foxtons have real opportunities that exist for truly talented people with commitment which is rec*ognised and rewarded. Must* live in central London. Clean driving licence. Salary, comm. *OTE £50-£70K* + quality car. Ideally aged 24-32. Telephone 0171 221 2000.

TRAINEE Property Negotiator. London's most exciting and progressive estate agent is expanding. Applicants must be materialistically motivated to achieve the unlimited career opportunities. Professional people will provide our clients with a quality service whilst achieving personal goals. Must live in London. Aged 19-25. Initial salary £12,000 plus car, thereafter OTE £56,000. Tel 0171 221 2000.

ADMINISTRATION

CREDIT ADMIN £23K. Handle approval, report docs. for private client loans of Int'l Bank. Sup. exp ess. Age 26+. NEXT EMP. 0171 287 3664.

DATA Administrator to £17,000 City law firm seek a bright, logical administrator to create and maintain their client 'know-*how' database. Excellent w.p.* and computer skills combined with exp. Career Design 0171 489 0889

INTERNATIONAL marketing consultancy seeks computer literate Office Administrator to give admin and secretarial support to our busy team. Ability to take initiative, mature attitude and reliability essential. Hours and salary negotiable. Start ASAP. Tel: Dennis/Nicole 0171 924 2980.

PART TIME VACANCIES

GALLERY situation, North Cotswolds. Part time/full time to deal with visitors and undertake secretarial duties. Preferred applicants would have sound appreciation of art and word-processing experience. Please Reply to Box No 4101

INTERNATIONAL People wanted. High profits, high growth opp. Tel 01909 772697.

PART-TIME PA for Charity. Must be computer literate. *10am - 3pm, 3 or 4 days per* week. Directors' Secretaries - 0171 629 9323.

SECRETARY WT1 22 Hrs per week mon-fri am or pm small *prof surveying practice* must be capable of working on own initiative. 0171 221 6332

PART TIME VACANCIES

RECEPTION £9,500 - established professional company seeks experienced Receptionist 8.30-*1.30 daily. Role inc meeting visitors,* co-ordinating mail, messages, meeting rooms etc. and looking after switchboard. Smart presentation essential. Please call 0171-494 4466 Gor*don Yates Consultants.*

RECEPTION OPPORTUNITIES - £8-10K 1) Int. Co. in Cov Gdn. requires 2 people am/pm roles. 2) Org. committed to improving the environment. These positions req confident manner and well spoken candidates with previous reception exp. 40 wpm and excellent t/p skills. Part *Time Division Angela Mortimer* (Rec Cons) 0171 814 0800

WEEK ON/OFF - City locations 1) Leading Int Mgmt. Cons req. Partner's Sec for job share. Busy and varied role. WP6 + Lotus. 2) Why not use your fast accurate audio typing to work for prestigious Law Firm? WP5.1 + Litigation exp. ess. Prev Senior Level exp. essential. Previous Senior Level exp req'd for both positions. Part Time Division Angela Mortimer (Rec Cons) 0171 814 0800

MEDICAL SECRETARIES

MEDICAL SECRETARY
W1 Paediatric Practice
If you don't mind sticky fingers please send your CV to
Claudia Lindsay
25 Wimpole Street
London, W1M 7AD

CHARITY FUNDRAISERS
needed for worthwhile and rewarding work in friendly Fulham offices. Courteous telephone manner and confident personality essential. Commission only. Please phone 0171-581 1597

MEDIA CREME

GROSVENOR

STEP INTO THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

PA IN TV DEPT - C£18,000 – Busy Head of Dept in W. London needs 2nd PA to help with gen sec work. Diplomacy, confidentiality + dealing at senior level. W4Ws.

SEC/ASST IN TV - C£18,000 – Corporate dept in successful TV Co is looking for an intelligent secretary to join a tight-knit team. 80wpm s/h + 50wpm typing.

PA IN THE ARTS - C£18,000 – Work for exuberant boss of a premier cultural + entertainment centre. Usual PA duties. 50wpm typing and W4Ws.

ENTREPRENEUR - C£14,500 – Sec with 1+ yr work experience. Good typing (min 50wpm, audio + W4Ws). Unusual, fun job. Graduates welcome.

GROSVENOR BUREAU ***RECRUITMENT***
TEL: 0171 499 6566 CONSULTANTS

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOCIATORS

Knight Frank

SITE SALES NEGOTIATORS FOR BARNES WATERSIDE

High quality individuals required for this prestigious riverside residential development.

Whilst it would be preferred that the successful candidates can demonstrate a successful track record in residential property, it is not essential.

Sales, communications and interpersonal skills will be essential for this high profile position.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV to Catherine Maunder, Knight Frank.
152 Sloane Street, London, SW1X 9DB

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

AVENUE TRADING LIMITED (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company No: 1989672

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Peter James Yeldon of Smith & Williamson, No 1 Riding House Street, London, W1A 3AS was appointed Liquidator of the said Company on 22 February 1996.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 31 March 1996 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, Peter J Yeldon of Smith & Williamson, No 1 Riding House Street, London, W1A 3AS, the Liquidator of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1996.
PETER J YELDON, Liquidator.

FIRST PAGE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION
Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Act 1986

TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Michael William Young of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of First Page Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 1st March 1996.

Dated 1st March 1996.
Michael William Young, Liquidator.

MARQUE GROUP PLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 13th March 1996 at 12 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated 28th February 1996.
Ian M. Goth. Director.

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CHAUMET LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

The liquidators of Chaumet Limited give notice under the provisions of Rule 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that they intend to make a final dividend to the Unsecured creditors of the company.

Creditors who have not already done so, must send details in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidators DM Ghosh and C G Bird of Price Waterhouse at 10 Bricket Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JX by 31 March 1996 which is the last day for submitting claims. A creditor who does not make a claim by that date, will not be included in the proposed final distribution.

D M Ghosh, Joint Liquidator.
29 February 1996.

No. 887 of 1996
In the High Court of Justice
Chancery Division Companies Court
In the Matter of
BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
and In the Matter of
The Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division), Companies Court dated 14th February 1996 confirming *the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the Company* resolved on and effected by a Special Resolution passed at an Extraordinary General *Meeting of the Company held on* 29th November 1995 was registered by the *Registrar of Companies on 26th February* 1996.

Dated this 29th day of February 1996
EVERSHEDS,
10 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3LX.
Solicitors for the above-named Company.
Ref: DJK/28, Tel: 0121 233 2001.

The Insolvency Act 1986
Mountier Architectural Fabrication Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 19th March 1996 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington, FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 29th February 1996.
By Order of the Board.
DJ Mountier. Director.

Warner Specialised Contractors Ltd

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 18th March 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

DATED this 1st March 1996.
D.J. Vesser, Director.

MONTEAGLE SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME

(Incorporated in Luxembourg, R.C. No B19600)
(formerly Afex Corporation S.A.)

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the fourteenth Annual General Meeting of Monteagle Société Anonyme will be held at the offices of Maitland & Co. S.à R.L., 68-70 boulevard de la Pétrusse, Luxembourg on Friday 29th March, 1996 at 3.00 p.m. (local time).

Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statements containing full details of the above are available from City Group Limited, 25 City Road, London, EC1Y 1BQ and from C.I. Registrars Limited, P.O. Box 30, Victoria Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 2PZ.

By Order of the Board
City Group Limited
Group Secretaries

68-70 boulevard de la Pétrusse,
Luxembourg.
6th March, 1996

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADAMS nee JONES, EMILY ADAMS otherwise EMMY ADAMS nee JONES Widow late of Folkestone, Kent died at Dover, Kent on 9 July 1994 (Estate about £8,800)

BALL, JAMES HENRY BALL late of Bristol, Avon died there on 11 December 1994 (Estate about £7,000)

BARR, DOROTHY INGLIS BARR otherwise GLORIA DOROTHY INGRID BARR Spinster late of Cantyn, Colwyn Bay, Gwynedd died at Llangefni, Gwynedd on 24 June 1994 (Estate about £5,000)

BROOKS otherwise MEARS, KENNETH WILLIAM BROOKS otherwise KENNETH WILLIAM MEARS late of Chelmsford, Essex died there on 15 May 1994 (Estate about £40,000)

CLEGG, ALAN VIVIAN CLEGG formerly HUBERT CLEGG late of Sutton, Surrey died there on 11 October 1995 (Estate about £30,000)

CRAUSAZ, ERNEST HENRI CRAUSAZ otherwise ERNEST CRAUSAZ late of Edgware, Middlesex died there on 7 May 1995 (Estate about £90,000)

FARMER, FREDERICK WALTER FARMER late of Ripley, Derbyshire died there on 17 December 1994 (Estate about £5,000)

HABGOOD nee JOHNSON, MARY CATHERINE HABGOOD nee JOHNSON Widow late of Barnstaple, Devon died there on 14 October 1995 (Estate about £40,000)

JACKSON nee HARRIS, DOROTHY LILIAN JACKSON nee HARRIS Widow late of Croydon, Surrey died there on 30 March 1995 (Estate about £30,000)

MARTIN, JOSEPH MARTIN late of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire died there on 7 October 1994 (Estate about £30,000)

MOORE, ALBERT HENRY MOORE late of Oxford died there on 15 February 1994 (Estate about £12,000)

NICKLIN, NORMAN HENRY FORTESCUE NICKLIN late of Bournemouth, Dorset died there on 4 December 1995 (Estate about £25,000)

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

H.M. LAND REGISTRY
Lost certificates

It is proposed to issue a new certificate to replace the described below that is stated to have been lost or destroyed. Anyone possessing the missing certificate or objecting to the issue of a new one should at once notify The Gloucester District Land Registry of Twyver House, Bruton Way, Gloucester GL1 1DQ.

Charge Certificate Freehold Title Numbers ON2198 and ON7647 - Land on the North West side of London Road, and Headington Sports Ground, Headington, Oxford, both now part of Manor Ground, London Road, Headington, Oxford.

Proprietor of Charge: Energy Holdings Limited of 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR, also of Jardine House, 1 Wesley Street, St Helier, Jersey JE4 8RD.

SIR WILLIAM ELLIS TRUST FOR GUIDES OF SWISS NATIONALITY

The Trustees of the Sir William Ellis Trust for Guides of Swiss Nationality registered charity number 120959 hereby give notice that they have passed a resolution under Section 75 of the Charities Act 1993 for the following purpose.

Authorising the expenditure of the charity's capital as income.

Any interested person wishing to make representations regarding the said resolution may do so, quoting the registered reference at the foot of this notice, within a period of six weeks from the date of this notice, by writing to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales at the address below.

Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, St Albans House 57/60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX. Ref: LM /Charity No 120959/10025

WILSON nee Young - VERA WILSON nee YOUNG (Widow) LATE OF MIDDLESBROUGH, CLEVELAND DIED THERE on or about the 16th January 1995. (Estate approximately £17,000)

Kin of the above are requested to apply to THOMAS WILKINSON, Solicitor of 425 Linthorpe Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6HJ.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ELINOR FITZMAURICE of 101 Walton Street, London SW3 died on 9th April 1995. Particulars to Cockburns, Solicitors, Panorama, Guildown Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5EY before 10th May 1996. Ref: [illegible]

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

ANDORRA - The Sunny Tax Haven. Apartments from £30,000 Chalets from £130,000. Free Information Booklet. Tel. 01895 442711.

BALEARICS

IBIZA — FAMILY VILLA.
400m from Talamanca Beach, views across bay to Dalt Villa in Ibiza town. 5 dble beds, 3 bath(2 ensuite), lounge, study, dining rm, lrg fully fitted kitchen, utility, self contained 2 bed apt, dble garage, 10x5m pool, landscaped gdns, 2 BBQ's, well furnished, tel, mains water & electricity.
Private Sale £275,000.
Tel: 01273 500870.

BALEARICS

TAYLOR WOODROW Menorca Phase III. 2 & 3 bed apartments, golf course location, heated swimming pools, from £47,500. 3 day inspection visits available. For more information. Tel 0181 893 2525.

FRANCE

Beautiful Castel of the 18 century, with extensive outbuildings, on the French-Belgian border. On 80 km from Brussels. 10,660 m² buildings with garden of 12 bect. 94 acres.
For info:
+32/71.59.09.29.

FRANCE

ALL FRANCE 'The Hexagon' New full colour brochure 100s of properties. For free copy phone or fax 01497 831771.

PROVENCE Unspoilt village. 10 kms St Tropez. 3 bedrm house. gdn & pool. FF 1.6m. Excellent letting potential. 01428 642761

BUY without Commission. Free! Receive regularly, at your home, a selection of real estate corresponding to your demand. Fax (33) 67 63 63 19, or write to: Le Partenaire Européen 34297 Montpellier cedex 5/France.

COTE D'AZUR & PROVENCE SPA sell the widest range of Villas/Aprts and welcome your enquiries however specific. Tel: 0171 483 0606 Fax: 483 0438.

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION
ADMISSION FREE
AROUND 50 EXHIBITORS
22ND, 23RD, 24TH MARCH 1996
FRI. 11.00 AM TO 7.00 PM.SAT. 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM
THE SOLIHULL CONFERENCE & BANQUETING CENTRE
HOMER ROAD, SOLIHULL, BIRMINGHAM B91 3QN
Organised by WISEFILE LIMITED
2a Lambton Road, London SW20 0LR. Telephone: 0181 944 5500
BRITAINS BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITIONS FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

BORDEAUX
Beautifully restored 19th Century château and adjoining 18th Century farmhouse in 3½ hectares. One hour east of Bordeaux. Includes swimming pool and small vineyard. Conveniently located to all amenities. Urgent sale as owners returning to Australia.
F.F. 2.75 million
Tel 0171 680 9780
Fax 0171 481 3555.

LOT
Furnished converted barn on 3 floors near pleasure lake.
Good letting income (sleeps 14) with a sizeable field adjacent.
No serious offer refused around £38,000.
Tel 01282 779335

COUNTRY PROPERTY

LAING 100% FAIR EXCHANGE*

Thanks to Laing you can afford to live where you want to.

A HEDINGHAM - FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE

Country villages, vibrant city centres and sought-after suburban areas, there are Laing developments in some of the most desirable areas. Moving has never been easier than with the Laing 100% Fair Exchange Scheme.

HERTFORDSHIRE
BEECH TREE HEIGHTS, STANDON
Four bedroom homes located in a beautiful semi-rural setting with excellent access to the A10 and Stansted Airport
Prices from £159,995
TEL: 01920 822807

BERKSHIRE
THE CHAFFINCHES, TILEHURST
Four bedroom detached houses all benefiting from modern fitted kitchens complete with oven, hob, hood and dishwasher
Prices from £124,995
TEL: 01734 420638

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
THE CHESTNUTS, ASTON CLINTON
Four bedroom detached houses. Master bedroom benefits from en-suite bathroom while the kitchen includes an oven, hob, hood and dishwasher
Prices from £139,000
TEL: 01296 631072

HAMPSHIRE
WATERCRESS PLACE, ALTON
A select development of only 10 four bedroom detached houses
Prices On Application
TEL: 01420 561639

10 YEAR WARRANTY
BUILDING HOMES FOR GENERATIONS

Ask for details of our 100% Fair Exchange scheme

Details correct at time of going to press
* Available on selected sites and plots, subject to status and Laing's standard terms and conditions.

PORTUGAL

QUINTA BEM PARECE
ALGARVE
This beautiful hilltop villa overlooking Lagos, the marina, sea and mountains is set in 3 hectares of natural vegetation a short country lane ensures privacy. Gently curved architecture, spacious layout and mature gardens with pool create the harmonious ambience of the villa. Open living areas, large kitchen, 7 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3 kitchenettes and cosy cottage, 2 bedrooms, office multi-purpose rm.
£680,000
Fax/Phone:
00 351 82 760750

VILLA MOURA.
Excl private quarter of Villa Moura, close to the marina & casino, on 1 acre plot, adj the old English village, unique style & character, 5 ensuite beds, full air con, f.furn, priv pool, 20 mins Faroh a/port, 7 mins from famous Quinta Do Lago & the Val do Lobo golf course.
£295,000
Mr Salvatore 0181 364 2883. after 5pm.

ALGARVE - Homes with distinction. Architecturally designed. Superbly constructed in locations to suit. Contact Portogoa Tel. 0181 810 0785 UK or Fax 00351 82 341285 P.

ALGARVE. Almancil to Lagos. Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago, Carvoeiro. Villas & apartments. For personal service Prime Property Int. 01628 778841.

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE Vila Sol Golf & Country Club, championship course, outstanding properties, special offer on plots to include golf membership. 0181 291 9966.

SPAIN

COSTA BLANCA
New & Resale
VILLAS & APARTMENTS
From £20,000
Ask for Country Villas list
From £35,000
COLOUR BROCHURE:
O.H.H. 71 Yockley Close Camberley Surrey GU15 1QQ
01276 676281

SOTOGRANDE (SG)
Ryder Cup Location 1997
5 minutes away!
Quality spacious 4 bed/2½ bathrooms, own garage & gardens.
Community tennis courts & swimming pool
£110,000
All furnishings & SG golf share also available
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Fax: 350 44422

BUYING or selling property ? Networking saves agent's fees. Freecall 0500 636541.

JAVEA TOSALET Exclusive plots, magnificent sea views & quality resales 0181 291 9966.

MORAIRA/JAVEA £40k-300k+ New & resale. Broch/photos. Beaches Int. 01562 885181.

TAYLOR WOODROW Moraira, Costa Blanca, apartments & town houses from £73,600. New villa development commencing soon. 3 day inspection visits available. For more information Tel 0181 893 2525.

TAYLOR WOODROW Gibraltar Luxury Apartments & Penthouses from £145k. Major Tax Benefits. Details & Brochure UK 01727 855303 / 00 350 40550

SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND. Verbier for sale special 3-4-5 rooms apartments, small chalets. fax (0041) 26 31 64 66 A. Valena - Verbier.

USA

FLORIDA HOMES. Orlando and Gulf Coast. Guaranteed rental scheme. FPC 01202 296098

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

Discover Your Dream Home Overseas at
THE WORLD OF PROPERTY EXHIBITION
- The largest display of property overseas in the UK
- Over 120 different agents and developers
- Holiday, retirement and business property
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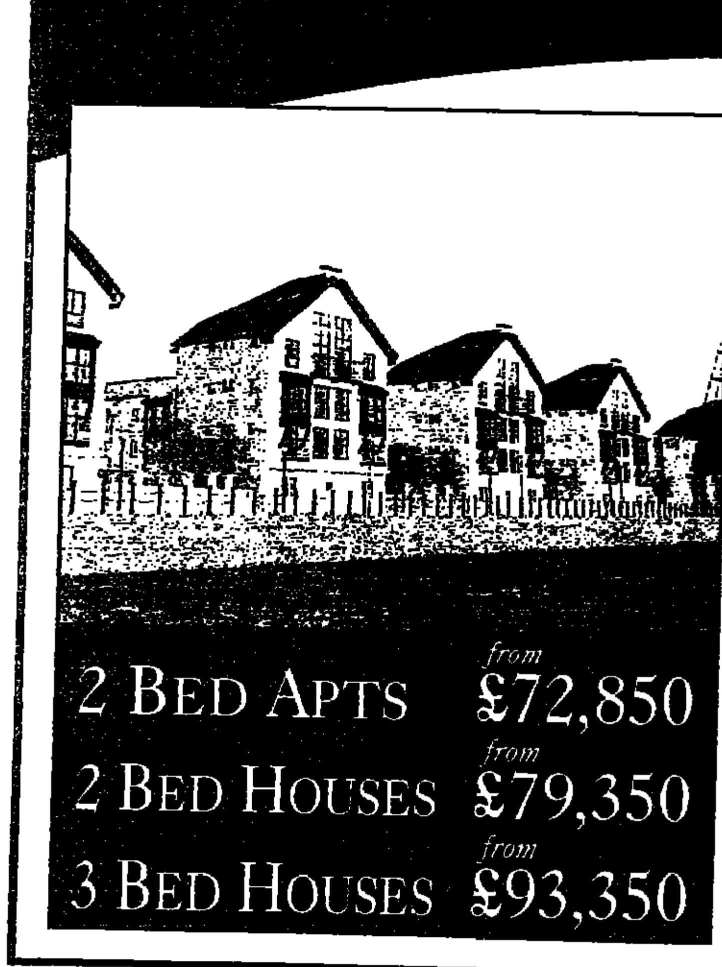

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'Is Scotland being sold to the highest bidder?

Traditional aristocrats are giving way to foreigners and conservation groups, **Rachel Kelly** reports

A vast swath of Scotland last week passed from its ancestral owners to a charitable trust.

The 10th Duke of Atholl died leaving 70,000 acres of Perthshire land north of Pitlochry to the Blair Charitable Trust. "The late duke handed over the estates to a charitable trust to ensure they remained as an entity for the sake of the people who work and live on them," says Rosemary Walker, a spokeswoman. "He could have sold Atholl to anyone for millions, but he signed away his fortune for the good of the area."

Others are neither as altruistic nor as lucky as the duke. For the past decade, traditional land-owning aristocrats have been selling up from the Borders to Barra. Some have been forced to by bankruptcy. Others have been hit by Lloyd's. Still more have been seduced by the rash of foreign buyers and conservation trusts who have been eyeing their rolling acres. Scotland is ripe for the plucking.

The result is a sea-change in the ownership of the Scottish Highlands and Islands. No longer are vast wildernesses owned by families who have gone hunting, shooting and fishing for generations. In their stead are self-made millionaires from Egypt, The Netherlands, Dubai, Hong Kong and America and a crop of environmental and conservation groups.

James Laing, from Strutt & Parker, says: "Scotland appeals to northern Europeans in particular because they have limits on how much property they can own at home. They can buy unlimited acres in Scotland."

Last year, the 77,000-acre Mar Lodge estate in Aberdeenshire adjacent to Balmoral was bought by the National Trust for Scotland. It was previously owned by the American businessman John Kluge.

Other recent sales include that of the 42,000-acre Glenfeshie estate, in Inverness-shire, bought by the Will Woodland Trust in 1994; the 17,000-acre Forsinard estate in Sutherland, purchased by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at Christmas 1994; and the 14,000-acre Strathaird estate on the Isle of Skye, acquired by the John Muir Trust. The National Heritage Memorial Fund, which spends 10 per cent of its budget on land purchases, often helps such groups to buy these estates.

The 10th Duke of Atholl: left 70,000 acres in trust

Scottish buyer: Ann Gloag bought Beaufort Castle

Traditional landlords do, of course, remain. The likes of the Duke of Buccleuch and Cameron of Locheil have survived, according to Andy Wightman, author of *Who Owns Scotland*, published by the Edinburgh publisher Canongate next month.

But others, such as the Sutherlands, the Wills tobacco family and the Frasers of Lovat, have given way to new owners. Lord Kimball was forced to sell the 47,000-acre Altnaharra estate in Sutherland because of Lloyd's losses in 1994.

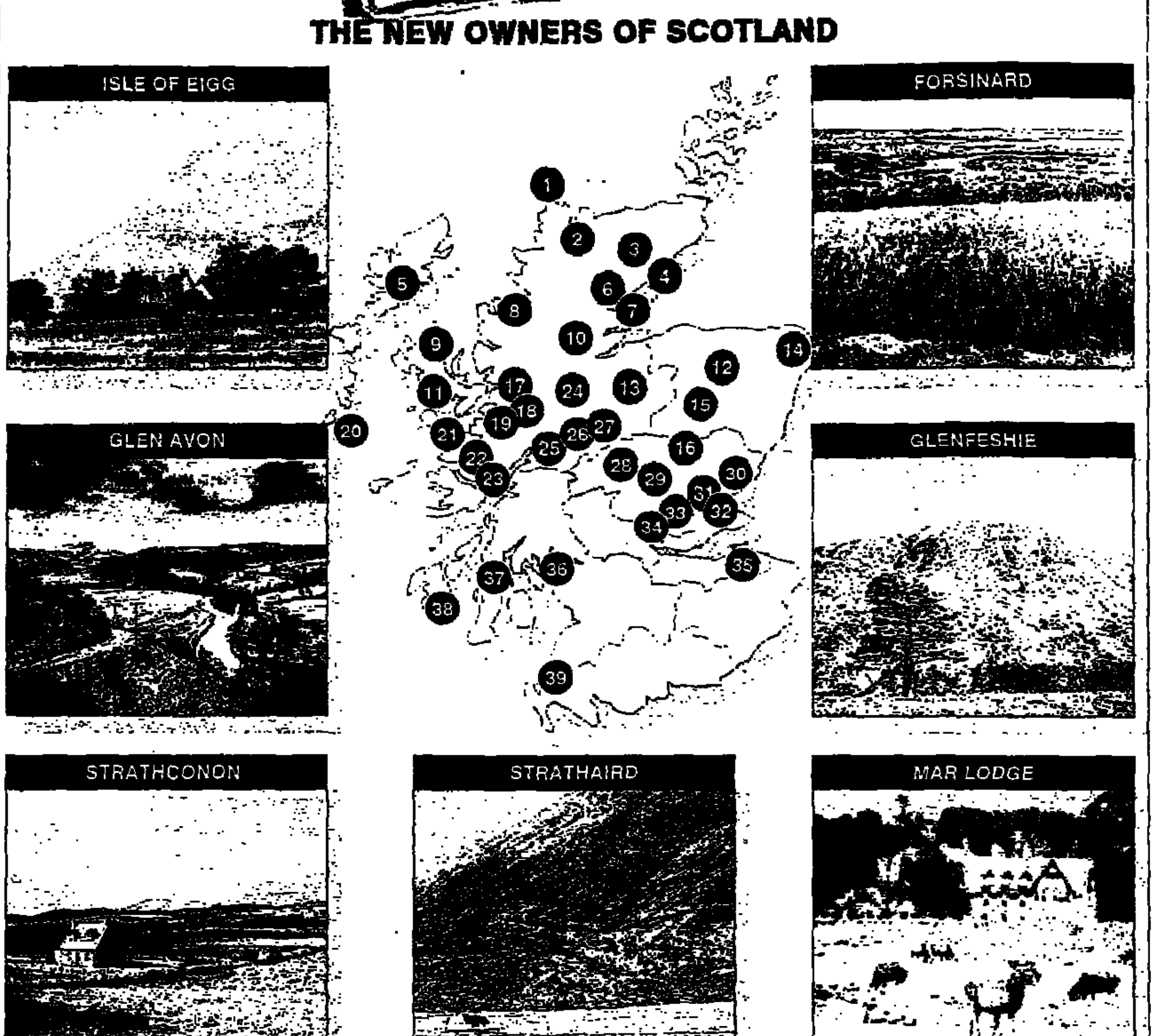
Kjeld Kirk-Christiansen is typical of the new breed of landlord. He runs the Danish Lego Corporation and last year bought the 60,000-acre Strathconon estate in Ross-shire, which had been held for three generations by the whisky distilling MacDonald-Buchanan family.

Marlin Eckhard Maruma from Stuttgart last year bought the Hebridean Isle of Eigg. A mysterious Malaysian businessman behind the Andras holding company last year bought the £6 million 40,000-acre Glen Avon estate, once owned by the Wills family and a favourite spot of Queen Victoria.

Mr Wightman calculates that half of Scotland is now owned by just 500 people. It is believed that fewer than half those owners are Scottish.

Does it matter? Of course, there is something about the idea of a family of long-standing connection, such as the Atholls, that seems to embody the spirit and romance of the Highlands. No charitable trust will take the place of a duke in residence at Blair Castle.

THE NEW OWNERS OF SCOTLAND



1. Durness, Dutch
2. Ben Loyal, Danish
3. Forsinard Estate, RSPB
4. Dunbeath, American
5. Loch Seaforth, Swiss
6. Earl's Cross, Hong Kong
7. Balnagown, Arabian
8. Letterewe, Dutch
9. Dun Maraig Island, German
10. Eilean Aigas, Singaporean
11. Strath Conon, Danish
12. Strathaird Estate, John Muir Trust
13. Mar Lodge Estate, National Trust for Scotland
14. Glenfeshie, Will Woodland Trust
15. Mounie Castle, Hong Kong
16. Glen Avon, Malaysian
17. Clova Estate, Belgian
18. Loch Duich, Arabian
19. Knoydart, Kinloch Investment Company
20. Castlebay, American
21. Isle of Eigg, German
22. Kilchoan Estate, Belgian
23. Glenborrodale Castle, American
24. Braulen, overseas owner
25. Blar a' Chaoruinn, Dutch
26. Corrour, American
27. Ben Alder, Swiss
28. Blair Atholl, Blair Charitable Trust
29. Pitmain, Danish
30. Letham Grange, Taiwanese,
31. Tower of Lethendy, American
32. Kinfauns Castle, Hong Kong
33. Dungartill, Dutch
34. Blackford Estate, Arabian
35. Cherrytrees Estate, Scotland
36. Knockdow, Swedish
37. Cloanaigh Estate, Danish
38. Texa Island, American
39. Forest Estate, Norwegian

But nostalgia aside, there are concerns about who owns Scotland's hills, straths and glens. These are not just baubles for rich foreigners but some of Britain's most important wildernesses. Some of the new landlords are absentee and environmentalists claim that they neglect the land.

There is concern in Perthshire, for example, where the owner of the Blackford estate, His Excellency Mahdi Mohammed Al Tajir, of the United Arab Emirates, has been accused by locals of abandoning farms on the slopes of the Ochil Hills.

The Danish owner of the Pitmain estate in the Monadhliath Mountains in the Highlands angered environmentalists when he laid a road across the land. The scheme was granted planning permission despite the opposition from the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

There can be problems with conservationist groups, too. Andrew Rettie, of the Edinburgh agents Strutt & Parker, says: "Conservation groups concentrate on a single issue. The RSPB naturally is concerned about birds and a woodlands charity about woodlands. This can lead to problems." For example, if foxes are not controlled, they can make adjacent grouse moor management difficult.

What reforms make sense? Some wish for limits to foreign land ownership and controls on land use. Mr Wightman suggests that there could be size limits on land ownership, and a requirement for owners to be resident. "There needs to be greater control of the land, and greater access to it.

"Those who live and work there need greater security about what is going to happen so that they can plan long-term."

The good news, Mr Wighunan says, is that the debate is firmly on the political agenda. The Scottish National Party has set up an independent land commission and is expected to unveil proposals later this year on land ownership.

The Scottish Crofters Union is equally concerned. Some crofters have banded together to buy estates, just as they did in Assynt in Sutherland in 1992. And a Scottish parliament would be expected to address some of these long-standing issues.

> 'He could have sold Atholl for millions, but he signed away his fortune for the good of the area'

But the concerns can be exaggerated. Most landowners behave well, wherever they hail from, points out Graeme Gordon, convener of the Scottish Landowners Federation, which represents 4,000 estate owners who manage about seven million acres.

"They are committed custodians of the natural heritage who provide jobs, housing, and security for remote communities, often at a personal loss," he says.

Estate agents are beginning to note the first stirrings of the return of the Scottish laird. William Jackson, from Knight Frank in Edinburgh, says: "For too long we have heard that Scotland is being sold to the highest bidder, to faceless companies, unknown charitable organisations and foreigners. But three of our most important sales last year were to Scottish buyers."

Beaufort Castle, formerly the seat of the late Master of Lovat, was sold to Ann Gloag, the power behind Stagecoach buses. Cherrytrees Estate near Kelso, the home of Lady Jane Grosvenor, was sold to an expatriate Scot from Hong Kong. And at the turn of the year, the Teasses estate in Fife was sold to Fraser and Trish Morrison from Morrison Construction, one of Scotland's biggest building companies. The tide could yet turn.

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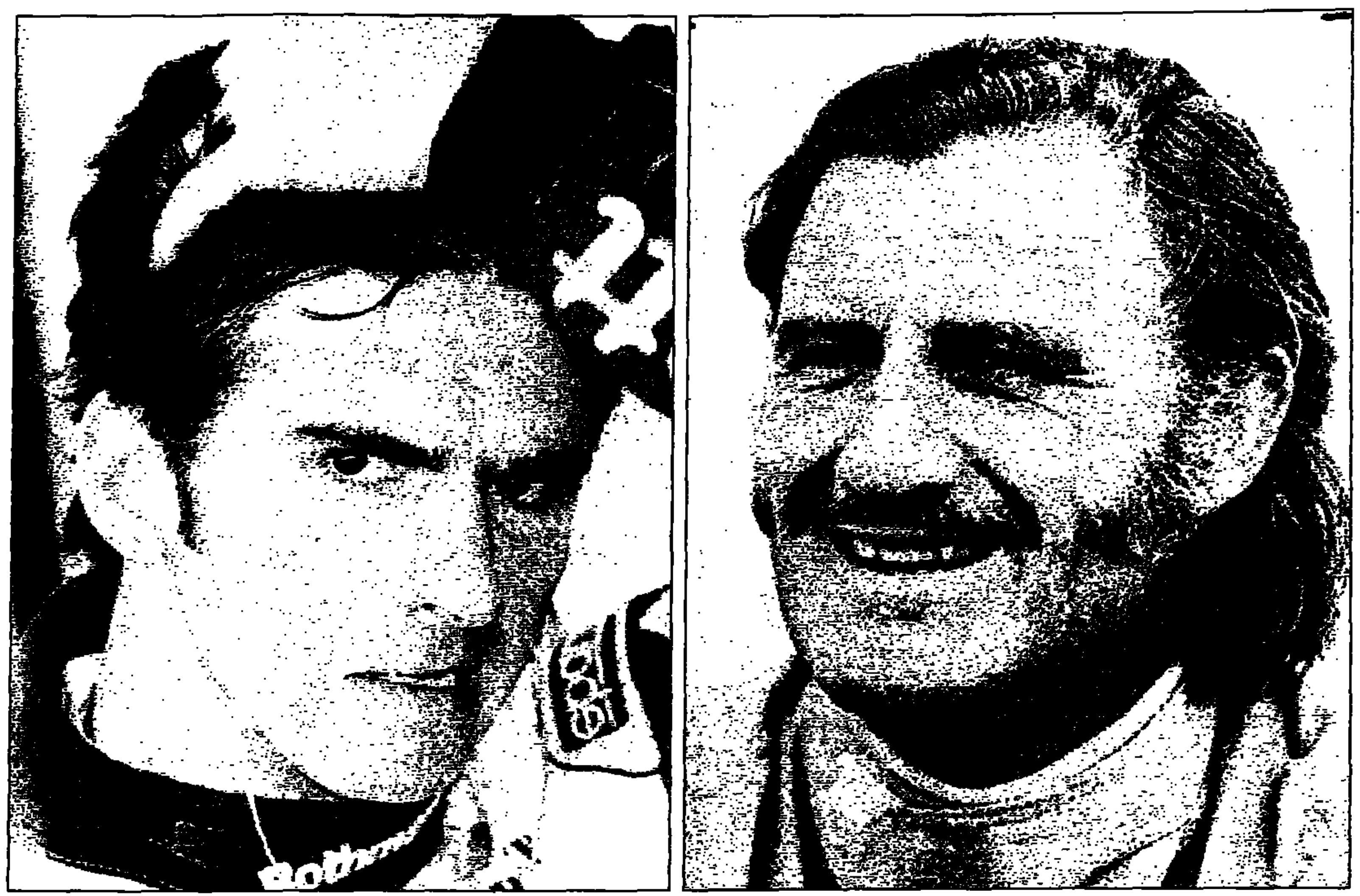
Landmark victory in Melbourne could drive Hill towards his destiny

Damon battles the demon in his head

By Oliver Holt



Rising of the son: Hill knows the significance to his mental fortitude of equalling the number of grand prix victories achieved by his father

THE key lies in the mind of Damon Hill. The Formula One motor racing drivers' world championship is calling out to him, telling him it is his, that it will only elude him if he allows it to. Psychology is everything and Hill, who seems more at peace with himself than ever, may be about to win the biggest mind game of his life in Melbourne on Sunday.

He might surpass Michael Schumacher, Jacques Villeneuve and Jean Alesi on the way, but, more importantly, victory in the Australian Grand Prix, the first race of the 1996 season, will throw him into a father and child reunion that will bring him dancing out of the shadows of his family heritage.

A win on the new street circuit would take Hill's total of grand prix victories to 14, equalling the number achieved by his father, the late Graham Hill: and he will have done it in less than a third of the time it took the great double world champion. He goes very quiet when asked about it. "It will be very special," he said, "very special."

It will be the biggest step the son of Graham Hill has taken towards turning his Old Man into the father of Damon Hill. To some, it will be an empty record, shorn of significance by the years that separate the achievements. But this season, when Hill's Williams-Renault team-mate, Villeneuve, is also a young man steadily emerging from the shadow of a lost Formula One father, it seems particularly pertinent.

While Villeneuve seems to have succeeded in blocking out the past, aided by the fact that his father, Gilles, died when he was 11, Hill has never attempted to hide the influence of his father's memory. The high points of his career — his first win, his win in the British Grand Prix in 1994 — have all been decorated with tributes to his father, who never won his home event.

He has always been reluctant to talk about their relationship, eschewing the sentimentality that comes so easily to those more fond of the limelight. At the final pre-season test in Estoril, however, Hill sat calmly in the team garage and talked about how his childhood had been dominated by the long absences of his father, by immersion in a motor racing scene that his shy nature distrusted.

The equalling of his father's record, it seems, will not so much be the culmination of a crusade to emerge from his shadow, more another step in getting to know his dad. For a man of Hill's sensitivity and occasional mood swings, it will be a crucial mental milestone in what could become his season of destiny.

"Going to races was my life," he said. "My entire life has been motor racing. All the parties and the people that my dad used to mix with. All his friends. Motor racing people were my upbringing. You do not have any self-determination up to the age of 15 so I sort of went along with it. I was not enamoured with it for a long time. It was usually a case of being looked after at a racetrack and not really knowing particularly what was going on. In the early Seventies, I was starting to follow my dad's team and I had more than a passing interest in how the whole thing was working. But when he died, [when Damon was 15] well, I had no interest at all in Formula One after that.

"You have got to remember that it was not on television then so there was no way you could get into it as a child unless you went round to every single race. Children always make demands on their parents' time and I have got children now and my sons wouldn't want me to be away the whole time. Every parent notices that. When I'm at home, I'm very conscious of the fact that I know what it is like to be growing up.

> 'He only ever mentions his father with fondness'

"You have to bear in mind that, apart from the Formula One races, my father used to go off for six weeks in the winter doing the Tasman series, plus he did other kinds of races to supplement his earnings and the travel was not as easy as it is now."

There is no bitterness in these words. He only ever mentions his father with fondness and is happy at the traits they share — including "dedication to fiddling about with something to try to get it to work", he said. He may indeed never have felt in his shadow, but if he wins on Sunday, the eclipsing of his father's tally of wins will unquestionably give him a huge boost. For now, the approaching record is a source of wry amusement. "It is just a number at the end of the day," he said.

"They had less grands prix in those days and in his 14 wins he also won two world championships. But his career did span from 1958 to 1975 and I have only done four seasons. There you go. I'm trying to score points against the Old Man.

"If he was around now, I would certainly mention it to him."

Sinister threat of sabotage clouds big race

Oliver Holt on a macabre attempt to disrupt the Australian Grand Prix

THE lake shimmers, the trees lining the track whisper in a light breeze, the facilities here in Melbourne are the best that Formula One motor racing has ever seen. All seems set fair for the start of the new season and the city's grand prix bow but there is discord beneath the surface. Amid the rejoicing and the rejoining at a new circuit, real talk of a kamikaze mission that will destroy the first race of the year has surfaced.

At first, it seems fanciful. The most these protesters, who resent the felling of 1,000 trees at the Albert Park site of the race, have done so far is scatter some carpet tacks in front of a few bewildered cyclists last year. Now that autumn is here, though, they have begun to call to mind images of suffragettes and the king's horse at Epsom.

Suddenly, people are talking about the time in Phoenix six years ago when a pacifist protester knelt in front of the cars at the American Grand Prix. He escaped unhurt but macabre disruption of a similar kind has now become a dreaded prospect here in Australia.

Jenni Chandler, the co-ordinator for the Save Albert Park campaign, admitted reluctantly last night that, despite the group's concentration on peaceful protest and the goal of a Federal Court injunction against the running of the race, it was still possible that a renegade member of the group would try to throw himself under a car sometime between practice starting tomorrow morning and the end of the race on Sunday afternoon.

"There is a radical, renegade member of our group who has professed a consistent desire to throw himself in front of one of the cars," she said. "The rest of us are doing our best to persuade him not to do this. We have no way of telling whether or not he has a ticket for the race. But we do not want to hurt the drivers or ourselves in our protests.

"We have said we will create an international incident but we want to do nothing that would in any way harm the drivers and spectators present. We are not opposed to the race as such but to the venue. Our purpose is to stop motor racing there and to reclaim the site as parkland. That is why the pursuance of an injunction would suit our purposes so well. We are keeping our options open."

As concern about the threat to the race has increased, the organisers have taken hasty steps to arrange a £30 million insurance premium should they be forced to cancel the race.

More than a thousand police have been called in to try to ensure that the event goes according to plan. So far, the majority of spectators have welcomed the £22 million scheme that has transformed the park from a run-down athletics venue into a state-of-the-art site for local enthusiasts.

Last year, when the plans for switching the race from Adelaide to Melbourne became public, Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association and the prime mover behind the change, received a series of death threats. "If they try to shoot me," he said at the time, "they'd better make sure they get me first time."

The kamikaze man at Albert Park may be pondering his next move, but the whole of Formula One is hoping he sits it out.

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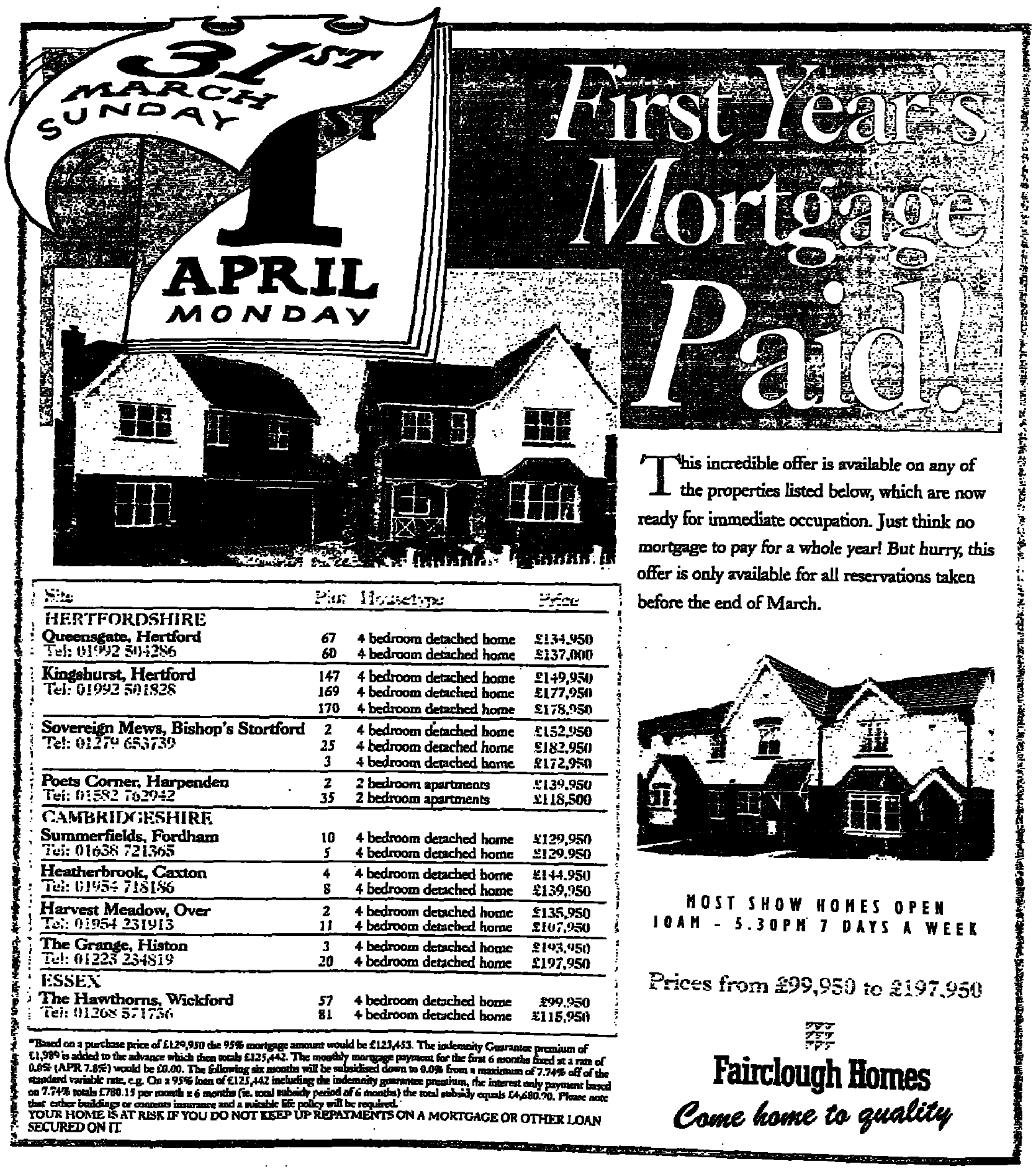

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هكذا من الأصل

Spreading jam too thickly leaves magic unpreserved

Well, England could still win the cricket World Cup, and if ever an entire *competition* was *invalidated* by a single fact, that is the fact and this the competition. The World Cup is a mechanism that has been constructed, not around the search for *the best cricket team*, but around the idea of seeing how many hours of television could be cobbled together. Answer: an awful lot, and practically all of it — Kenya apart — *unwatchable*.

But there is an historical precedent. There is never enough incentive to do well in the group games: Pakistan made nearly as *big a set of idiots of themselves* at the last World Cup as England have this. They went on to win it as Imran's cornered tigers. Perhaps, like retaliation, you should get *your humiliation in first*.

The group *stages of this World* Cup mean virtually nothing: there are only seven matches in the whole competiton that actually count, these being the quarter-finals, the *semis*, and the final. I have been fed up with the competition from the first ball.

More and more and more dreary games in dreary jimjams. *And what if other* sporting organisations took note, and adapted the same idea? Oh, yeah, give them any old rubbish, as much as possible, they'll lap it up.

Domestic football's great day of the year is the FA Cup Final, an ancient day of magic. Wouldn't it rather spoil things if they tried to stretch things out, in a blatantly *commercial fashion*, and had, say, two Cup Finals every year?

Of course, it would. I know that for a fact, because it has already happened. The League Cup, or whatever the damn thing is called *this year, brings us a second cup* final. The competition is so stupid that Alex Ferguson, of Manchester United, didn't even bother putting out his first team. Worthy *contempt for an unworthy competiton.*

Throughout football, the League Cup is held in mild contempt. Nice to win it, doesn't matter a damn if you lose. And that feeling has now *infected the FA Cup. The same* spirit prevails: a cup is nothing special. There is no magic. It is overwhelmingly fashionable to say that the league is the thing, even if it is the Beazer *Homes League*.

Or suppose they were to have the Olympic Games not every four years, but every two. That would take the magic away, wouldn't it? But of course, we already do have the Olympics every two years. We have the summer games this year; in two years, we have the winter games. Jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, and yes, great big dollops of jam today. You can get sick of jam.

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

But what about the World Cup, I mean *the* World Cup. Wouldn't it be *dreadful if the football World* Cup took place every two years? That really would kill the magic. We had a World Cup two years ago; we are not going to have one *this summer, are we?*

Oh yes, we are. Not the actual World Cup, but still a major international football tournament. This year, the European football championship *finals* have been expanded to a gourmandising 16 teams, as many as contested the World Cup finals of 1966.

But surely these are greedy *things, associated with sports* who have lost their way, trapped in a mire of commercialism. If we go to, say, domestic cricket, surely we will find a saner perspective.

But endless county cricket is the oldest tradition in the game, and it is maintained as part of the fabric of the nation, for all its inevitable *production line of time-serving* mediocrities. No other country has so intense a domestic programme: no other country does so consistently poorly at Test level.

Still, it better than frittering your season away in meaningless one-dayers. Apart, of course, from one good solid cup competition, with a great cup final every year. And the *Sunday league. So why stop there?* Cricket doesn't. We have a second cup, and therefore a second final. How many unique days can you have in a year?

Ah yes, you say: but I bet it's worse in the United States, they're all mad for money. If you were talking basketball or ice hockey, I might agree. But baseball has only one competition, and only one World Series, and this forbidding rhythm, free from second chances, is its beauty. The National Football *League has* but one Super Bowl and it comes at the end of one short, sharp season.

The sports that possess a genuinely unique and great event retain something special — the magic of Occasion. There are not two Boat Races, or two Grand Nationals: there are not two Wimbledons, or two Badmintons. These events *burst the barriers of their sport*, and of sport itself. It is not just rowing folk, or even sporting folk who watch the Boat Race.

Too often, more sport means *worse sport. Just another day at* the office. A diet that blunts the appetite. And yet still the expansion continues, still the lunatic stress on the gigantic. Does sport *really believe it is immune to the* law of diminishing returns?

Discipline assumes extra importance in new era

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE first season of professional rugby union in the *southern hemisphere may* have brought new wealth to the leading players but, as has been the case in the north, there is also a new awareness *of the game's image. The first* weekend of the Super 12 Tournament has brought not only a crop of injuries, but disciplinary problems.

These include two players who might have been expected to know better by now. Johan le Roux, the South African prop sent home from the New *Zealand tour of 1994 after an* ear-biting incident, was sent off for butting yesterday as Transvaal were beaten by Australian Capital Territory (ACT). *His countryman,* James Dalton, sent off against Canada during last year's World Cup, has been suspended after a kicking incident.

The game in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, now tied irrevocably for the next decade to a £360 million television contract agreed last summer, can ill-afford such problems. The authorities seek to market the sport against stiff competition, but last weekend Transvaal lost *three international players to* injury during their defeat by New South Wales (NSW) and their own indiscipline has further weakened them. Le Roux, the Transvaal prop, has only just completed an 18-month suspension after television cameras caught him *biting the ear of Sean Fitzpat*rick, the New Zealand captain, at Wellington in July 1994. Four days after being cleared to play once more, he was sent off by Australia's leading official, Wayne Erickson, as ACT won 13-9. The South African was involved in a clash of heads with Marco Caputo, the *opposing hooker,* who required treatment. According to Kitch Christie, Transvaal's and South Africa's coach, Le *Roux retaliated after his own* nose was broken, but there was little support from Francois Pienaar, his own captain.

Meanwhile, Dalton was warned by a disciplinary hearing that he had been fortunate to escape heavier punishment for his "dangerous and inexcusable" kicking of Mark Bell, the NSW hooker. Dalton had appealed against his two-match suspension after being *cited following Friday's open*ing Super 12 fixture in Sydney.

The need for self-control has always been implicit in rugby *union, but that requirement* has been enhanced by the introduction of professionalism with its contractual agreements embracing codes of *conduct, image of the game*, and financial penalties. The Rugby Football Union will await with anxiety the verdict on Jason Leonard, the England prop, expected tonight.

Leonard will appear before Jacky Laurans, the match commissioner, *in London* after being cited by the Scottish Rugby Union for a punching incident involving Rob Wainwright, Scotland's captain, *during last Saturday's* Calcutta Cup match. The recommended punishment is 30 days, and Leonard can expect to miss the game with Ireland on March 16.

Nor has the game's less elevated ranks much to crow over. Six players will miss Bedford's second division *game with Newcastle on Sat*urday after being suspended by their club for "unacceptable horseplay" during Bedford's visit to Melrose last week. An *impromptu game of indoor* rugby at the team's hotel ended in a neck injury to Dave Shaw, Bedford's director of administration, who was *jumped on, inconvenienced* fellow guests and brought an invitation to leave from the hotel management.

Hunter feels way back

IAN HUNTER, the forgotten man of English rugby, will be restored to the public eye today when he plays against *the Barbarians in the annual* Mobbs Memorial Match at Northampton (David Hands writes). He will do so in what Ian McGeechan enjoys call*ing his "dream team"*, even though it will appear in the traditional green of East Midlands.

On this occasion, with the *agreement of club and constit*uent body, Northampton *have effectively taken over the fixture* and McGeechan, the director of rugby at Franklins Gardens, is fielding his strongest side.

After appearing in the opening two games of the season, Hunter, 27, who has been capped seven times by England, was laid low by a virus and has only recently *returned to full fitness*. He will play at full back.

Richard Bramley, the Cambridge lock, returns to captain England in their final student *international of the season* — against Ireland at Oxford on March 15 — before selection for the Student World Cup in South Africa in July.

ENGLAND STUDENTS: J Ullon (Reading); M Denney (Bristol), F Waters (Bristol), M Allen (Loughborough), D Luger (Manchester); R Bulland (Bath), S Johnson (Bath); M Long (Northumbria), S Rodgers (Brunel), M Shelley (Newcastle), R Leach (Durham), R Bramley (Cambridge, captain), D Grewcock (Manchester Met), A Pountney (de Montfort), G Seely (Nene College). Replacements: C Catling (Exeter), S Roiser (Guys Hosp), N Walshe (Kingston), D Molloy (Thames Valley), D Macer (Oxford Brookes), C Yandell (Swansea)

JERRY LAMPEN

Luc Alphand, of France, the World Cup downhill skiing champion, attacks the course for the World Cup final during practice at Kvitfjell, Norway, yesterday

IN BRIEF

Henman's stock continues to rise

TIM HENMAN, ranked No 79 in the world, had one of the best wins of his lawn *tennis career yesterday when* he beat the world No 22, Jan Siemerink, of Holland, 7-6, 7-6 in the first round of the ATP Tour event in Rotterdam. *Henman, 21, from Oxford*, won the first tie-break 8-6 and the second 11-9.

Players gain bonus points for beating those of a higher ranking so Henman could well improve on his previous best placing of 78 when the next list is published on Monday. Jeremy Bates, the former British No 1, and Chris Wilkinson, from Southampton, both won their opening *matches in the ATP Challeng*er in Stockholm.

Emerald Tour

Cycling: *Plans to bring the* Tour de France, the world's most famous race, to Ireland in 1997 are close to success. "There are still pieces to put into place but we're hopeful we can bring it off," Pat McQuade, a member of the privately-funded Dublin International Sports Council, said yesterday.

The project would involve shipping the riders to France after the opening three stages in Ireland — a time-trial prologue in Dublin with two stages running to Cork, Waterford or Wexford.

Bullock setback

Athletics: Britain yesterday lost a third 400-metre runner *from their team for the Euro*pean indoor championships in Stockholm this weekend, when Guy *Bullock pulled out* with a leg injury, joining Mark Hylton and Melanie Neef on the sidelines. Du'aine Ladejo, the defending champi*on, and Kent Ulyatt, the* reserve, are the sole survivors from the original selection.

Coach departs

Ice hockey: Humberside Hawks have dismissed their *Canadian coach, John Grif*fith, after failing to finish in the top four in the British premier division. He has been replaced by another Canadian, Keith Millhench.

Clean sweep

Motor rallying: Colin McRae, of Britain, cruised to victory in his first Rally of Thailand yesterday, finishing 31 seconds ahead of Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden. Piero Liatti, of Italy, was third, completing a clean sweep for the Subaru team.

Familiar place

Bowls: Norma Shaw, of *Thornaby, the holder, reached* her fourth singles final at the English Champion of Champions tournament with a 21-14 win over Pauline Proud, of the Isle of Wight, at Eastleigh, yesterday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There are some plays *that only an expert* would consider, and some that he would only make against another expert. Consider this example, from the US 1995 Nationals at New Orleans.

Game all **Dealer West** **IMP's**

♠A Q 6
♥Q 10 9 7 5
♦A K
♣Q 6 4

♠K 5 2
♥K J 6
♦10 5 4 2
♣A K 5

N
W E
S

♠J 10
♥A 4 3
♦9 8 7 3
♣J 9 8 2

♠9 8 7 4 3
♥8 2
♦Q J 6
♣10 7 3

W	N	E	S
1 D	1 H	2 D	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	2 S
All Pass			

Contract: Two Spades by South Lead: two of diamonds

The first point to note about the hand is North's decision to overcall and then make a take-out double to show his extra values, rather than starting with a double: that approach is becoming more and more the expert practice.

West (Brian Glubok) had *what looked* like an automatic opening lead of a top club, but he saw a little more deeply into the position. East probably did not have length in the majors, and from his muted diamond support presumably had no great length there. So he was unlikely to be ruffing clubs. Instead West chose the two of diamonds.

The declarer Ed Nagy cashed the *top diamonds*, and played a low heart from *dummy* to Glubok's jack. Now Glubok played a low club — and Nagy called for dummy's queen. Now he could *arrange* to ruff a heart to hand and take *a spade finesse* for his contract. Why did Nagy rise with the queen of clubs? It was because if Glubok had ace-jack or king-jack in clubs, he would have shifted to the jack, protecting against *his partner* having the ace or king without the ten; with those holdings and the queen in dummy the play of the jack would never cost.

But be warned, that sort of *inference* is only safe against an expert.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: *0181-942* 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

JAPE
a. Japanese enamelwork
b. A camel colt
c. A prank or trick

SUFFUMIGATE
a. A female oblate
b. To undersmoke
c. To beat black and blue

THIBLE
a. To pretend to be ill
b. An Anglo-Saxon area
c. A spatula

BOTHAN
a. An arrogant lout
b. A fencer's pelvic box
c. A drinking den

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

World title

Today I continue the homage to that great attacking master, Alexander Alekhine, whose death occurred half a century ago. In 1927 he achieved his ambition of contesting a world championship match against the reputedly invincible Capablanca. For this marathon contest, which lasted 34 games, Alekhine *suppressed* his natural inclination towards sacrifice and attack, concentrating instead on mastering the ruthless positional and strategic logic which characterised the play of his opponent.

Alekhine's *decision to* switch styles was justified by overall match victory. He scored six wins to Capablanca's three, with all other games being drawn. As we can see from today's effort, Alekhine saved the tactics until Capablanca had been strategically outplayed. Only then did Alekhine deliver the *coup de grâce*.

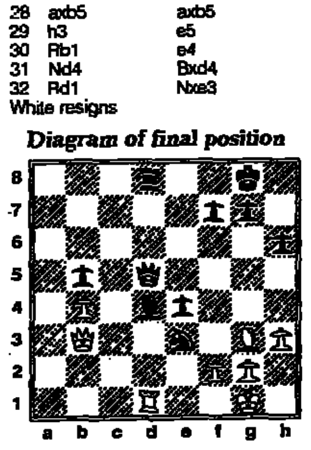
White: José Capablanca
Black: Alexander Alekhine
World championship match, Buenos Aires, 1927

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Bg5	Nbd7
5	e3	Be7
6	Nf3	0-0
7	Rc1	a6
8	a3	h6
9	Bh4	dxc4
10	Bxc4	b5
11	Be2	Bb7
12	0-0	c5
13	dxc5	Nxc5
14	Nd4	Rc8
15	b4	Ncd7
16	Bg3	Nb6
17	Qb3	Nfd5
18	Bf3	Rc4
19	Ne4	Qc8
20	Rxc4	Nxc4
21	Rc1	Qa8
22	Nc3	Rc8
23	Nxd5	Bxd5
24	Bxd5	Qxd5
25	a4	Bf6
26	Nf3	Bb2
27	Re1	Rd8
28	axb5	axb5
29	h3	e5
30	Rb1	e4
31	Nd4	Bxd4
32	Rd1	Nxe3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Cenek Kottnauer

One of Britain's top players of the 1950s and 1960s died last month. Cenek Kottnauer was born in Czechoslovakia in 1910 and represented that country in a large number of events, including the 1952 chess Olympiad.

Kottnauer emigrated to the UK in 1953 and subsequently took British nationality. He was a true chess polymath, shining in a *number of different arenas. He* played for England in the chess Olympiads of 1964 and 1968 and was awarded the Fide (world chess Federation) titles of International Master in 1950 and International Arbiter in 1951.

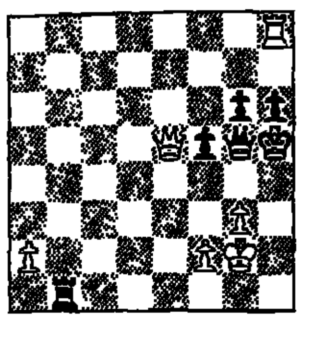
His single outstanding result *was to* win the Lucerne 1953 international tournament and he was also co-author of a standard book on the Sicilian Defence.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess *Monday to Friday* in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Simagin — Abramov, USSR 1946. Normally a king finds shelter behind a wall of pawns. Here, instead, the black king is attempting to shelter in front of a row of pawns. How did White *demonstrate the flaw in this plan?*



Solution on page 46

Price rises to double challenge

By David Rhys Jones

JOHN PRICE, of Swansea, completed a notable double at Auchinleck indoor bowls club yesterday, when he won the British Isles singles and triples championships.

Price had previously won the British singles and pairs titles, but it was the first time he had taken the triples, a feat *he accomplished in* concert with his father, Harry Price, and Steve Rees, a Swansea club colleague.

Their 17-11 win over Wey Valley, the English champions, represented by Daren O'Toole, Andy Hatto and Paul Vamvacopoulos, was more comprehensive than the score suggests, as the Welsh trio held a firm grip from first to last.

In the opening stages of the singles final, Price, 35, was at times outplayed by Ian Bond, *of Exonia, who last month* reached the quarter-finals of the world indoor singles championship.

"Ian impressed me at Pres*ton, and I knew I was in for* a hard match," Price said after calling on his wealth of experience to ensure a 21-13 victory.

Prestwick, without their leading player, David Gourlay Jr, the newly-crowned world indoor singles champion, won the fours title.

Chaloner decisive as lions power to title

By Colin McQuillan

ICL Lion Herts have swept to their first Super Squash League title with a comprehensive win over Cannons Club, the defending champions, in the last fixture of the season in London.

Fittingly, it was Mark Chaloner, the young Lincoln player who won the sports writers' international newcomer award for clinching England's first world team championship last November, who took the point needed to secure the title for his Welwyn Garden City squad on Monday evening by defeating Marcus Cowie 15-4, 14-15, 15-12, 15-11 in the third-string opening *rubber of the match*.

"It has been a fantastic season for me," the 23-year-old England No 3, said. "I have always been in the right place at the right time." His England success was as fourth string behind Simon Parke, *Del Harris and Chris Walker* and his league opportunity this week also came behind the top order strength of Harris and Walker, with Har*ris completing* a league double over Peter Nicol, the British champion, by 17-16 in a fifth game tie-break at first string.

Parke was half expected to *appear* behind Nicol for Cannons Club after last week completing a course of chemotherapy for testicular cancer. "But I decided to be a bit cautious about returning to competition," Parke said as his weakened side went down 3-0.

"I have been keeping my practice going since having surgery to remove a tumour in *January. Generally, I feel* pretty good, but the chemo kills more than just the cancer cells while it's in the system and I decided over the weekend to give myself a longer preparation period before returning to full action."

Parke's *decision probably* influenced Neil Harvey, the Cannons team manager, against asking for a one-off performance from Peter Marshall, his original first string who is struggling with chronic fatigue syndrome, and in favour of selecting his juniors, Justin Rennie and Cowie, to play behind Nicol.

"We started the season with the best squad in Britain and have suffered the worst luck imaginable with both Peter and Simon," Harvey said.

In the other final fixture, Jim Hall Sports Northern defeated Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield in Surrey, with Rodney Eyles, the Australia world No 2, surviving a match point to Derek Ryan, of Ireland, to secure the only home point, leaving Ogmore Valley Dragons in third place.

Results and tables, page 44

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Champions' Cup
Quarter-finals
Real Madrid v Juventus
Legia Warsaw v Panathinaikos
Nantes v Spartak Moscow
Borussia Dortmund v Ajax

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v Sheff Wed (7.45)
QPR v Leeds (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League
Second division
Notts County v Walsall (7.45)
Wycombe v Brighton (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
First division
Airdrie v Hamilton
Dunfermline v Dundee
Third division
Ross County v *Albion*

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Solihull v Dudley Town. Southern *division: Poole v Cinderford.*

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Abingdon Town v Chesham.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: *President's Cup:* First round replay: Boston v Alfreton

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Arsenal, Charlton v Oxford Utd (7.0), Crystal Palace v Chelsea (at Dulwich Hamlet, 7.0), Ipswich v Norwich *(at Bury St Edmunds); Luton v Wimbledon*, Watford v Millwall (2.0). Second division: Bath v Bournemouth, Birmingham v Torquay (7.0); Cardiff v Plymouth (2.0)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Liverpool (at Preston, 7.0); Derby v Sheffield Utd (7.0); *Wolverhampton v Newcastle (at Telford FC)*. Second division: Huddersfield v Port Vale (7.0); Hull v Grimsby (7.0); Manchester City v Burnley (at Witton Albion FC, 7.0); Middlesbrough v Leicester (at Cellnet Riverside Stadium, 7.0); Rotherham v Barnsley (7.0); York v Bradford (7.0). *Sunderland v Mansfield (7.0)*

LEAGUE OF WALES: Porthmadog v Aberystwyth (7.45); Cwmbran v Briton Ferry.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP: Semi-final: Portadown v Glentoran (at Mourneview Park, Lurgan).

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Tottenham Omada v St Margaretsbury; Brook House v Corinthian-Casuals

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne v Westbury.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ferryhill v Stockton. Craven Cup: Second round: Darlington CS v Ryhope CA. Norton v Morpeth.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: League Cup: Semi-final: Southampton v Tottenham

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First *division: Prescot v Chadderton;* Skelmersdale v Glossop North End.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Stansted

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Stafford T v Cradley Town; Lye Town v Bloxwich S; Wolverhampton C v *Brierley Hill T.*

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stowmarket v *Hadleigh U*; Sudbury v Cornard

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Brockenhurst v Wimborne; Christchurch v Thatcham, East Cowes v Gosport.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Hucknall.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: League *Cup: Fourth round replay: Ossett Albion v* N Ferriby.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Oldham v West Ham. Quarter-final: Oldham v West Ham

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-19 Trophy. Quarter-finals: Humberside v *Merseyside (Winterton Rangers FC, 7pm)*; Northumberland v Lincolnshire (Morpeth, 2.0) Inter-County: Hertfordshire v Oxfordshire (Woodside Stadium, 7.0) English Schools Snickers under-19 Trophy: Swindon College v Yeovil *College (2.0), Shrewsbury v Archbishop* Grimshaw, Birmingham (2.15). English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: St Francis Xavier, Merseyside v Lacon Childe, Shropshire (2.0). English girls Vimto under-16 Trophy: Bungay HS, Suffolk v Corfe Hills, Dorset (Bungay Town, 10.30)

RUGBY UNION

Mobbs memorial match
East Midlands v Barbarians
(at Northampton, 3.0)

Club matches
Cambridge Univ v Penguins (7.15)
Gala v Newcastle (7.0)
Nuneaton v Rugby (7.15)
Oxford Univ v
Kanto Gakuin Univ (Japan) (3.0)

HART GILMOUR FOUR COUNTIES *CHAMPIONSHIP: Worcestershire and* Herefordshire v Greater Birmingham (at Worcester, 7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: British men's championships (Auchinleck) *English women's indoor* championships (Southampton)

BOXING: ABA finals (National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

Pressure grows on men at the top as Premiership race enters final lap

Keegan faces stern test of leadership

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

EVENTS on Tyneside on Monday night, when Eric Cantona's goal earned Manchester United a 1-0 win over Newcastle United at St James' Park, opened up the FA Carling Premiership to a three-team finale that is likely to become as tense and intriguing as any in recent times. Good for that, everybody will profit from watching a true contest run to the final furlong of its course.

Inevitably, the profiles of the three managers involved will be seen as the public front of their companies, but do not fall into the trap of sympathising with these pressured men. Yes, Roy Evans, Alex Ferguson and Kevin Keegan are in the hot seats at Liverpool, Manchester United and Newcastle United respectively, but none of them is sitting in an ejector seat, which is the lot of 90 per cent of the managers beneath them.

They are at the top end of the salary range in this country, and they have commanded spending amounting to the better part of £100 million between them, more than all of the buying of all of the clubs struggling in their wake.

It should be football utopia: the nerve and the ability to purchase virtually any player that takes their eye, and then to blend them into a team fit to capture England's ultimate prize. If it is pleasure laced with some pressure, then that is a fact of life. How each of them responds to that pressure could determine which club wins through.

Evans, a Liverpool man throughout his working life, has achieved in two years a quite magnificent return to the ethics and the ethos of his club. He has not had to do it alone, for that has never been the Liverpool way. He is not fond of the term "Boot Room", yet he is surrounded by able and intelligent people to whom he has the humility to listen, and the response from the players, now passing the ball with a rhythm and relish shared by no other team in these islands, is testimony to the fact that they, expensive though they unquestionably were, are performing for him.

Evans had no personal medals to lay on the table, only a line in reasoning, a quietness of delivery, that appeals to the performers who can now win medals for themselves. John Barnes, for example, is hardly the type to respond to the bullying and cajoling that went before, and, though he has lost some pace and athleticism, he grows in estimation as the conductor of the tempo that provides Fowler, Collymore and McManaman with their stage.

Along the East Lancs Road in Manchester, Ferguson has already won six leading trophies in almost ten years, refusing to be bowed by the weight of expectation at Old Trafford. After winning the Scottish League and a European trophy with Aberdeen, he came to Manchester United when they bore the albatross of trying to win a championship that had eluded them for a quarter of a century. He was almost dismissed, and then dug in with remarkable determination and desire. On Monday, particularly when Newcastle were at their best, Ferguson's team reflected his own cussed nature, refusing to buckle under the utmost pressure.

Then, of course, his Frenchman, Cantona, though not until the 51st minute a significant player in the contest, delivered the only goal with a flourish, an aggressive and imperious swipe at the ball, that is also part of the personality that Ferguson recruits and instils. Added to that, there was the youth espoused by the Neville brothers, Gary and Philip, by Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs, which proves that Ferguson's Old Trafford retains something of the old Busby flair for grooming talent.

So Ferguson, in a season during which he was briefly tempted by an offer from Internazionale that would have paid him even more than the riches he reaps, found home is still where the heart is.

And Keegan? He has gone for broke this season. His team was leading, it seemed by a distance, and yet, as restless as he was as a player, he went out shopping for even more elements to throw into the brew. Faustino Asprilla demonstrated in 20 minutes at St James' Park what an exotic talent he possesses. He mesmerises opponents, hypnotises audiences and adds a dimension to the game beyond even that of Beardsley, Ginola or Ferdinand.

But there is risk in Keegan's game, possibly unnecessary risk. He looks his doubters in the eye, knowing that they question whether Asprilla is good for the cause, whether trying to settle in this extraordinary character could ultimately unsettle the equilibrium of the team. Time, as Keegan says, will judge. Brave, impulsive, wanting only the best in life for supporters whom he believes are the best, his qualities as a man manager, and as a team designer, are about to be tested to the full.

In the first half on Monday, his team outplayed but did not suppress Manchester United. Therefore, when Keegan observed that he had suggested his players get a copy of that first half, and that they would see that they were the best team in the land, there was a flaw in his logic. They were not quite the best: they did not finish what they created, they flattered, they promised, and deceived.

Then, when half the stadium anticipated change, it never came. Keegan could have taken off Asprilla when he faded so alarmingly, could have restored Keith Gillespie to the right wing, could have given Newcastle a second half in which to recapture the basic shape and dynamism that took them to the top in the first week of the season, where they have been ever since. He did not do that, and a question mark remains over his reading of the play. If he answers it, if he beats Evans and Ferguson in the managerial game, he is some man manager.

FIXTURES

Newcastle United

Mar 18: West Ham United (h). Mar 23: Arsenal (a). Apr 1: Liverpool (a). Apr 6: Queens Park Rangers (h). Apr 8: Blackburn Rovers (a). Apr 13: Aston Villa (h). Apr 17: Southampton (h). Apr 27: Leeds United (a). May 4: Tottenham Hotspur (h). To be arranged: Nottingham Forest (a)

Manchester United

Mar 16: Queens Park Rangers (a). Mar 24: Tottenham Hotspur (h). Mar 30: Arsenal (h). Apr 6: Manchester City (a). Apr 8: Coventry City (h). Apr 13: Southampton (a). Apr 17: Leeds United (h). Apr 27: Nottingham Forest (h). May 4: Middlesbrough (a)

Liverpool

Mar 13: Wimbledon (h). Mar 16: Chelsea (h). Mar 19: Arsenal (a). Mar 23: Nottingham Forest (a). Apr 1: Newcastle United (h). Apr 6: Coventry City (a). Apr 8: West Ham United (h). Apr 13: Everton (a). Apr 27: Middlesbrough (h). May 4: Manchester City (a).

Cantona is the centre of attention after scoring the decisive goal at St James' Park

Batty insists Newcastle still hold upper hand

By Peter Ball

"IT'S going to be one hell of a race now," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said after his team's 1-0 win over the leaders, Newcastle United, on Monday night had closed the gap at the top of the FA Carling Premiership to one point.

With Liverpool also involved, the race promises to be thrilling. It will also, increasingly, turn into a test of nerve. After holding a nine-point lead, Newcastle, who have a game in hand, are now being examined for their steadiness under fire as much as for the quality they revealed so exhilaratingly for such poor reward on Monday night.

"Even though Manchester United beat us, they would still sooner be in our position," David Batty insisted after his debut for his new club. With the experience of winning championships with Leeds United and Blackburn Rovers, Batty speaks with some authority.

The loss of their 100 per cent home record will hurt Newcastle, but the effect of the psychological blow of losing after playing such breathtaking football in the first half can only be guessed at. "In the first 45 minutes, we played some marvellous football, and we could have been a couple of goals up at half-time," Batty said with reason. "We've got ten games left and it's in our hands. There's no big crisis. You are bound to get beaten some time. It's how we react to this that matters."

By the time they play next, the rescheduling of fixtures for television purposes means that Newcastle could have been replaced at the top by Manchester United for the first time this year. That may add further pressure. "Newcastle have never really been in this position before," Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, said. "They have not reached March and April before with games running out, when you have to keep hold of a points cushion. We know that situation from both angles, leading and chasing, and that's to our advantage now."

Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, insisted that Manchester United's suggestions that they would handle the pressure better were wasted. "Alex Ferguson has been saying the same thing for four years to put pressure on teams — it's a bit of kidology," McDermott said. "It might work with kids, but it doesn't work with experienced players like Peter Beardsley, David Ginola and Philippe Albert."

After selling Batty to Newcastle, Blackburn may look abroad for his replacement. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, is expected to renew his interest in Tsimbalar and Nikiforov, two of the Spartak Moscow players who made telling contributions to his side's defeats in the European Cup Champions' League.

Wilkinson acts to defend his players against terrace abuse

By Our Sports Staff

HOWARD WILKINSON, the Leeds United manager, is hoping his side can arrest the slide in their league form against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road tonight. The Coca-Cola Cup finalists, who have lost their past four matches in the FA Carling Premiership — the latest to the bottom club, Bolton Wanderers, on Saturday — will probably take on Rangers, who are second from bottom, without their captain, Gary McAllister, who has a groin strain.

Wilkinson will play Nigel Worthington, the experienced Northern Ireland international, as a replacement for Tony Dorigo, who has a hamstring injury. Wilkinson was quick to stand by Worthington after the barracking the full back suffered from some Leeds supporters against Bolton.

"No player goes out to perform badly or arouse the disapproval of supporters," Wilkinson said. "Sometimes a crowd's reaction can get to the players and cause a fear of failure that can prompt them into mistakes. Our crowd sometimes has the potential to self-destruct by putting extra pressure on players that I haven't encountered at my previous clubs."

Wilkinson was responding to a request made at a meeting of Leeds United's shareholders to convey their support to the player for the "abhorrent" treatment he had received from a section of fans. Worthington, 34, has previously played under Wilkinson at Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday.

Leeds's exploits in the cup competitions this season have tended to draw attention away from their inconsistent form in the Premiership. Wilkinson, however, has told his side that they must forget about their date at Wembley on March 24 with Aston Villa and also the FA Cup quarter-final tie against Liverpool on Sunday.

"Picking up League points remains important. We can not allow the cups to become the be-all and end-all," he said.

As well as Dorigo, and the doubts surrounding McAllister's fitness, Leeds will also be without Gary Kelly, Richard Jobson and Gary Speed against Rangers.

Alan McDonald, the Rangers central defender, returns after a two-match ban, but his fellow defenders, Rufus Brevett and Danny Maddix, are suspended for another match.

Aston Villa are likely to recall their veteran defender, Paul McGrath, in place of Steve Staunton for the game against Sheffield Wednesday at Villa Park. Staunton suffered a thigh strain in the 3-0 defeat at Liverpool on Sunday. The mood in the Villa camp remains upbeat despite the setback at Anfield.

"We've always bounced back this season from a disappointing performance or result and a few lads weren't really at the races against Liverpool," Allan Evans, the assistant manager, said. "Now we have two home games in four days against Sheffield Wednesday and Queens Park Rangers to get back on the right track and maintain our position in the Premiership.

"The League still gives us an important option in terms of qualifying for Europe if we don't win one of the cups."

David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, is another man praying for an upturn in his side's fortunes in the Premiership after five defeats in their past six games. To that end, Pleat is pinning his hopes on his latest signing, Regi Blinker, from Feyenoord of Holland, who will make his debut tonight.

"Regi is capable of picking up a goal," Pleat said. "He has a very good first touch and can cross a good ball. He will give us more options and allow us to change the pattern during a game."

Kevin Pressman will take over in the Wednesday goal from Chris Woods, who had to go off in the defeat against Nottingham Forest on Saturday after injuring his hip. Wednesday's influential midfield player, Mark Pembridge, could start a match for the first time since November after recovering from a foot injury.

McAllister: fitness doubts

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 105 Milwaukee 98; Detroit 99 Atlanta 93: Orlando 110 Philadelphia 97: San Antonio 101 Denver 90; Washington 96 Vancouver 81.

BILLIARDS

WIGAN: Strachan UK championship: *Second round:* S Agarwal (India) bt A Shandilya (India) 594-537; G Sethi (India) bt D Joshi (India) 890-517, R Williams (Eng) bt S Amarnath (India) 538-338, D Sneddon (Scot) bt M Rehani (India) 528-514, M Kothari (India) bt M Ferreira (India) 756-490: D Causier (Eng) bt R Foldvari (Aus) 531-496; R Chapman (Eng) bt M Wildman (Eng) 480-418; R Williams (Eng) bt P Gilchrist (Eng) 609-423; M Russell (Eng) bt E Hughes (Ire) 1032-336

BOWLS

AUCHINLECK: British indoor championships: Singles: Semi-finals: Wales (J Price, Swansea) bt Ireland (P McFall, Belfast) 21-5, England (I Bond, Devon) bt Scotland (D Peacock, Midlothian) 21-16. Final: Wales bt England 21-13. Junior singles: Semi-finals: England (M Royal, Mid Suffolk) bt Wales (A Bushell, Newport) 21-7, Scotland (C Richmond, Auchinleck) bt Ireland (J Henry, Ballymoney) 21-15. Final: England bt Scotland 21-19. Pairs: Semi-finals: Scotland (T Stewart and H Duff, Cumbernauld) bt Wales (W Letman and P Rowlands, Cardiff) 22-11, England (D Taylor and S Airey, Cumbria) bt Ireland (M Smyth and R Milliken, Ballymoney) 22-14. Triples: Final: Wales (H Price, S Rees, J Price — Swansea) bt England (D O'Toole, A Hatto, P Vamvacopoulos — Wey Valley) 17-11. Fours: Finals: Scotland (I Gourley, S Reed, E Vorsterman, R McCulloch — Prestwick) bt Ireland (R Corry, A McMullan, R Battersby, D Corkill — Belfast) 23-17

SOUTHAMPTON: Women's All England indoor championships: Champion of champions: First round: M Boswell (Edgerton Park) bt C Wadlow (Long Sutton) 21-9; E West (Crystal Palace) bt M Dyer (Clevedon) 21-12, S Springall (Foxhill) bt J Simmons (City of Ely) 21-20; E Turrin (Colchester) bt C Dennison (Lawns, Enfield) 21-13. Quarter-finals: Shaw bt Ade 21-10, Proud bt McClintock 21-12; West bt Boswell 21-7; Springall bt Turrin 21-20. Semi-final: Shaw bt Proud 21-14; West bt Springall 21-17. Pairs: Final: Peterborough (M Jacklin, C Anton) bt Riverain (Y Lyons, L Thomas) 21-17. Triples: First round: Padbrook Park (P Clark) bt Adur (F Pettit) 25-6, Banister Park (D Allen) bt Picketts Lock (S White) 16-13; Cambridge Chesterton (S Ritchie) bt Clacton (M Taylor) 20-19 (after extra end); Hartlepool (J Cleet) bt King George Field (J Annan) 21-14, Egham (K Strutt) bt Ade; Norwich (S Batchelor) 15-13; Donyatt (J Checketts) bt Angel Tonbridge (J Campbell) 23-10; Swinton (D Hunt) bt Thamesdown (D Woodley) 18-15; Bassetlaw (P Marples) bt Handy Cross (J Williams) 16-18

CYCLING

TOUR OF LANGKAWI (Malaysia): Fifth stage (166km, Kuala Lumpur to Malacca): 1, P Vetsch (Switz) 3hr 37min 50sec. 2, G Mitchell (NZ); 3, C Anderson (Den). 7, M Illingworth (GB), 15, R Hayles (GB) all same time. Overall positions: 1, D McDonald (Aus) 15:17:37; 2, C Newton (GB) at 10sec. 3, B Dennis (Aus) 11, 20, J Tanner (GB) 2:45

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Newcastle United 0 Manchester United 1

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Hednesford 1 Kettering 0; Stevenage 3 Dover 2.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham City 3 West Brom 0. Second division: Manchester City 1 Huddersfield 0

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Second round: Guiseley 1 Buxton 1

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford 2 Dorchester 2.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet 1 Grays 0. Third division: Tring 2 Hornchurch 6

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: Cheltenham 0 Swansea 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Wimbledon 2 Ipswich 2

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools girls' Vimto under-16 Trophy: Willenhall, West Midlands 2 Hall Cross, South Yorkshire 2 (aet; Willenhall win 4-1 on pens).

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fourth-round draw: Hyde United v Stevenage Borough; Gresley Rovers v Macclesfield Town; Bath City or Bromsgrove Rovers v Merthyr Tydfil or Northwich Victoria, Boreham Wood or Chorley v Gateshead.
☐ *Ties to be played March 23*

HOCKEY

HA TROPHY: Quarter-final draw: Coventry and North Warwicks v Blandford, Norwich City v Kettering; West Herts v PHC Chiswick; York CS Trojans v Blossomfield.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Rangers 2 New Jersey 2 (OT).

MOTOR RALLYING

RALLY OF THAILAND: Final positions: 1, C McRae (GB, Subaru) 3hr 35min 17sec; 2, K Eriksson (Swe, Subaru) 3:35 48; 3, P Liatti (It, Subaru) 3:36:45.

RACKETS

NEW YORK: United States amateur championship: Semi-finals (GB unless stated): W Boone bt C Hall 3-0; R Owen-Browne bt W Bristowe 3-0

REAL TENNIS

NEW YORK: United States amateur championship: Quarter-finals (GB unless stated): N Pendrigh bt R Pilkington 6-0, 6-0; D Jenkins bt P de Svastich (US) 6-4, 5-6, 6-5, P Jarvis bt P Clement (US) 6-3, 6-2; T Chisholm (US) bt W Boone 6-2, 6-2.

QUEEN'S CLUB: Queen's Club doubles championship: First division final: A Lumsden and J Wilson bt P Allen and J Cane 8-4. Second division final: P Smith and R Kerry bt K Sharples and P Wilson 8-4

RUGBY LEAGUE

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Fifth-round draw: Barrow Island v Woolston, Halton Simms Cross v Skirlaugh; Haydock v Ellenborough; Kells v Walney Central, Walnut Warriors v Milford, Wath Brow Hornets v Ovenden, Wigan St Judes v Thornhill; West Bowling v Clayton. ☐ Ties to be played March 16

RUGBY UNION

CANBERRA: Super 12 tournament: Australian Capital Territory 13 Transvaal 9.

SQUASH

SUPER SQUASH LEAGUE: Cannons Club 0 ICL Lion Herts 3 (P Nicol lost to D Harris 8-15, 3-15, 15-10, 15-11, 18-17; J Rennie lost to C Walker 5-15, 15-13, 12-15, 9-15; M Cowie lost to M Chaloner 4-15, 15-14, 12-15, 11-15). Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 1 Jim Hall Sports Northern 2 (R Eyles bt D Ryan 11-15, 10-15, 17-15, 15-7, 15-9; S Meads lost to N Taylor 12-15, 15-7, 13-15, 5-15; T Garner lost to A Gough 10-15, 15-10, 10-15, 8-15)

Final table

	P	W	L	Pts
Lion Herts	8	7	1	19
Cannons	8	6	2	13
Ogmore Valley	8	4	4	12
Northern	8	3	5	11
Lingfield	8	0	8	5

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Men's tournament: First round: C-U Steeb (Ger) bt P Bauer (Ger) 7-5, 7-6, D Prinosil (Ger) bt H Jan Davids (Holl) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3;

SCOTTSDALE: Men's tournament: First round: W Ferreira (SA) bt C Schalken (Holl) 7-5, 6-1; J Gimelstob (US) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-2, B Steven (NZ) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; P McEnroe (US) bt G Schaller (Austria) 6-1, 7-6, S Matsuoka (Japan) bt Mashiska Washington (US) 6-2, 6-2; R Reneberg (US) bt J Waite (US) 6-3, 6-1; A Berasategui (It) bt MaliVai Washington (US) 6-4, 7-5

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	110	240	good	powder	good	sun	-4	4/3
(Perfect piste skiing with powder still available)								
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	40	fair	varied	closed	fine	0	2/3
(Plenty of good skiing available in Innsbruck area)								
Kitzbühel	30	130	good	powder	fair	sun	-1	4/3
(Superb skiing on packed powder)								
Mayrhofen	0	70	good	varied	closed	sun	-8	2/3
(Good piste skiing; perfect weather)								
Söll	45	85	good	powder	good	sun	2	4/3
(Good skiing in all main areas on new snow)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	105	310	good	varied	good	sun	-2	21/2
(Mainly good skiing on packed snow; some icy areas)								
Les Arcs	90	200	good	crust	icy	sun	-3	23/2
(Best snow above 2,000m; conditions icy lower down)								
Flaine	65	265	good	varied	fair	sun	-11	23/2
(Good piste skiing in Flaine bowl; sunny but cold)								
La Plagne	105	200	good	varied	fair	sun	-3	2/3
(Good skiing in perfect weather; glacier superb)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	25	255	good	crust	worn	sun	0	1/3
(Glacier in perfect condition; icy low down)								
Wengen	35	65	hard	varied	fair	fine	-1	1/3
(Pistes icy early and late; snowcover good overall)								
Zermatt	40	310	good	varied	icy	fine	-1	2/3
(Good skiing on higher pistes; lower runs icy/hard)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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Vialli misses Real encounter

REAL MADRID will be looking to take advantage of the absence, through injury, of the Juventus captain, Gianluca Vialli, tonight as they renew their campaign to recapture the European Cup for the first time in 30 years. The Spanish champions have won the trophy more times than any other club but their last triumph was in 1966, when they beat Partizan Belgrade to claim a sixth title.

Their quarter-final encounter pits them against an Italian club with a fine European pedigree of their own, but who have claimed the ultimate prize only once, in the ill-fated 1985 final against Liverpool, when 39 fans died at the Heysel Stadium.

With Vialli sidelined after having 11 stitches put in a cut ankle after his side's 5-0 defeat of Padova on Sunday, Juventus are can still call upon two Italy internationals, Alessandro Del Piero and Fabrizio Ravanelli, to man their forward line, with the balding veteran, Attilio Lombardo, reinforcing the midfield.

Michael Laudrup, who left Juventus to join Barcelona in 1989 before moving to Real at the beginning of last season, knows the challenge ahead. "I'm more worried about the Juventus system than their stars," he said. Real, struggling in an unaccustomed sixth place in the Spanish league, have their own problems. Sanchis, the former Spain central defender, will miss both legs of the tie after being injured last week, and Amavisca, a forward, has also been incapacitated.

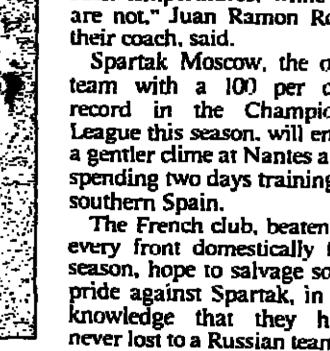
Ajax, the defending champions, are another side struggling with their recent form, and their quarter-final visit to Borussia Dortmund has been further hampered by a host of injury and confidence problems. They are without Marc Overmars and Martijn Reuser, both forwards, and are having to cope with a loss of form by another, Patrick Kluivert, after a car crash last year.

In the other ties, Panathinaikos, the leaders of the Greek league, are as worried about the weather as the skills of their opponents, Legia Warsaw.

Legia, making their first appearance in a European Cup quarter-final, have assured Uefa that their pitch is in good shape despite freezing temperatures, but the Greeks are anxious about the inhospitable nature of the conditions. "Their players are used to such temperatures, while we are not," Juan Ramon Roca, their coach, said.

Spartak Moscow, the only team with a 100 per cent record in the Champions' League this season, will enjoy a gentler clime at Nantes after spending two days training in southern Spain.

The French club, beaten on every front domestically this season, hope to salvage some pride against Spartak, in the knowledge that they have never lost to a Russian team in a European competition.



Laudrup: worried

New venue for European Tour

SLALEY HALL, the Northumberland course, will host the biggest golf tournament held in the area when a leg of the PGA European Tour takes place there this summer. Paresh Kotecha, managing director of the club, confirmed yesterday that The Slaley Hall Northumberland Challenge will take place there from June 13 to 16.

"I am sure we can expect four days of magnificent golf," Kotecha said of the first new European tour event in England for eight years. "This is not a one-off event. It is only a stepping-stone to the future. We are determined to bring even bigger and better international tournaments here."

Although the final programme for the £300,000 tournament has yet to be finalised, organisers plan to include pro-am and pro-celebrity competitions in the build-up to the main event. Newcastle-based Nova International will organise the event.

The world's top six players will compete in the 1996 World Championship, in which Barry Lane, of England, won $1.5 million (about £1 million) on New Year's Eve last year. The qualifying round in Wisconsin will boast the top three — Greg Norman, Nick Price and Ernie Els.

The European qualifying event will have Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer, ranked fourth and fifth, while Corey Pavin, the No 6, will play in an American qualifier. Each of the matchplay competitions features eight players trying for one spot in the final at Scottsdale, Arizona, on January 4 and 5.

هكذا من الأصل

مكبر من الأصل

Shadow Foreign Secretary applauded for visionary speech

Cook finds recipe for lottery relief

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

IN A speech overflowing with sparkling wit and considerable vision, Robin Cook yesterday offered New Labour's remedy to some of racing's most pressing problems, which left the sport's leaders purring with pleasure.

The shadow Foreign Secretary, whose love of racing extends to writing a regular tipping column for the *Glasgow Herald*, used the opportunity as guest speaker at the annual Tote lunch in London to spell out how a regular £1 million jackpot to combat the effects of the Lottery could be achieved; why the Tote and the British Horseracing Board (BHB) should become closely intertwined — and he offered bookmakers the tempting proposition of being allowed to take bets on the Lottery.

Addressing one of the most Conservative audiences in the land, Cook won over the 220 guests in a trice with his humour and direct approach. Even Lord Wyatt of Weeford, chairman of the Tote and renowned for his pro-Government sympathies, acknowledged publicly that Cook had lived up to his reputation as "the wittiest speaker since Aneurin Bevan." For good measure, Lord Hartington, the BHB chairman, also congratulated Cook on his speech.

With the effect of the Lottery on betting turnover clearly in mind, Cook offered some friendly advice to Wyatt, who is never slow to laud the supposed achievements of his pool betting organisation. "The relative market share between the Tote and the bookmakers is now a lot less important to racing than that we should help them both to keep racing's share of the gambling market," he said.

He disclosed that a Labour working party, whose membership includes Chris Bell, managing director of Ladbrokes, was looking at how to amend the Lottery. The issues under discussion included whether bookmakers should be allowed to take bets on lottery numbers, as they are in Ireland. "For myself, I would argue that any measure that halts the decline in small betting shops and keeps the public coming through the door is in racing's interest."

However, in a crucial section of his speech, Cook said there might have to be a tit-for-tat arrangement. "The Lottery is, of course, nothing but a large pool betting system, a sort of big brother to the Tote. If we are honest, the enormous interest in the Lottery has revealed racing's failure to attract a big enough pool to capture the public imagination. If we are to fight back we need a regular £1 million pool — and the Tote cannot offer that without more outlets.

"If Ladbrokes and Hills were to drop their opposition to Tote Direct terminals in their shops, Labour might be more accommodating to their desire to bet on the Lottery."

His suggestion lit up the Tote audience and, tongue in cheek, he continued: "I am not suggesting anything so crude as a deal. New Labour is a gentle, non-threatening animal. I am, though, suggesting that one positive attitude might encourage another positive attitude in response."

Cook then addressed the relationship between the Tote and the BHB and recalled how a Commons home affairs select committee had recommended five years ago the Tote should be vested in a democratic body such as the BHB.

A green paper from the Home Office on a possible Tote transfer appears to have sunk in the Whitehall quicksand and, with Michael Howard, Home Secretary, sitting only feet away, Cook gave a strong hint as to Labour's attitude.

"The BHB is an immense step forward for racing. Whatever legitimate debate there may be about the representative character of the BHB, no-one denies that the BHB will be the governing body that shapes the future of racing. For myself, if the Tote wants a secure place in that future of racing, then I think it would be wise to seek a closer structural relationship to the BHB."

He called on Howard to take time to finish the green paper on the Tote and, in a barbed political comment, Cook said he would use his influence on Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, not to complain if Howard shelved the Asylum Bill for a couple of months "to address the more pressing matter of the future of the Tote."

Cook's thoughts were in contrast to those of Lord Wyatt, who voiced his outright opposition to the BHB or Racecourse Association running the Tote. "I am implacably opposed," he said. "In the words of a great lady well known to us all 'No, No, No'. It's unnecessary."

Cook believes larger jackpots would combat Lottery effect. Photograph: Denzil McNeelance

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NORTHERN UNION
(3.40 Wolverhampton)

Next best: Galapino
(3.10 Wolverhampton)

One Man hardens as champion drops out

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

ONE MAN tightened his grip on the Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday after Master Oats, the winner 12 months ago, suffered a leg injury that has ruled him out of steeplechasing's blue riband.

The Gordon Richards-trained grey, who completes his Gold Cup preparation with a gallop at Carlisle racecourse today, has hardened to 11-10 favourite with William Hill. The firm then bets 9-2 Imperial Call, 5-1 Dublin Flyer, 8-1 Monsieur Le Cure, Rough Quest.

Couldnt Be Better, a 12-1 chance, confirmed his place in the line-up a week tomorrow when pleasing his trainer, Charlie Brooks, in a workout after racing at Newbury yesterday.

Master Oats's defection resulted from his aggravating an old injury to his off-fore. The Kim Bailey-trained gelding returned sore from a workout over the weekend and subsequent scans confirmed the damage to be more than superficial. He will be roughed off for the season.

"He has had leg problems before and there's always the chance it could happen again," Bailey said of his horse yesterday. "I'm just glad it happened now and not during the big race, when it could have been a lot worse. There is a good chance he will be back next season."

The build-up to Cheltenham has been fraught with disappointment for Bailey. The trainer dominated proceedings 12 months ago, when, in addition to Master Oats, he saddled Alderbrook to land the Champion Hurdle.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

1.55 Real Popcorn	3.25 Bayariyka
2.25 Perhaps	3.55 Squirrellsdaughter
2.55 Banntown Bill	4.25 JOCKS CROSS (nap)
	4.55 Charming Girl

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.25 JOCKS CROSS.

Carl Evans: 3.55 Squirrellsdaughter.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

1.55 HOLYWELL SELLING HURDLE (£2,334: 2m 1f) (17 runners)

101	5P3-PP6	ERLEMO 57 (S) (Mrs P Daniel) W Clay 7-11-8	Guy Lewis (3)	96
102	5F33P0	LORD GLENVARA 16 (G) (R Juckes) R Juckes 8-11-8	Mr P Henley (5)	98
103	0P	BEAU QUEST 11 (B Cambidge) B Cambidge 9-11-2	Gary Lyons	–
104	PP0	COME ON RISK ME 42 (H Ormesher) D McCain 5-11-2	D McCain	–
105	P	DEBOS 7 (R Godwin) M Pipe 6-11-2	Jamie Evans	–
106	00	HIGHEST ROOTS 12 (Knight Hawks) M Pipe 5-11-2	D Bridgwater	95
107	4R/P	MY-UGLY-DUCKLING 8 (K Warner) K Warner 9-11-2	J Ryan	–
108	5PP000-	REGAL RAMBLER 298 (P Loake) L Barras 5-11-2	B Harding (3)	●
109	P	WALTER'S LAD 20 (B Preece) B Preece 5-11-2	R Davis	–
110	12060-P	WASSLS MILLION 139 (G) (T Morton) T Morton 10-11-2	Mr A Brown (7)	95
111	U0243	REAL POPCORN 48 (P Barclay) W Jenks 5-10-11	T Jenks	97
112	00005-P	SHE KNEW THE RULES 251 (D Carey) D Carey 6-10-11	P McLoughlin	–
113		SQUEALING JEANIE (Bull Ring Inn) J Bradley 7-10-11	R Johnson	–
114	50425	COAST ALONG 6 (T Brooks) D Burchell 4-10-8	D J Burchell	93
115	003P	ROSCOMMON LAD 43 (D Manning Assocs) R Hollinshead 4-10-8	S Wynne	95
116	0P060	TOSKANO 20 (Berks Components) D Williams 4-10-8	G Hogan (3)	87
117	0000	LAWNSWOOD LADY 11 (Mrs M Park) Mrs F Owen 4-10-3	L Harvey	–

BETTING: 7-2 Coast Along, 4-1 Real Popcorn, 6-1 Debos, 7-1 Highest Roots, 10-1 Lord Glenvara, 12-1 Erlemo, 14-1 Roscommon Lad, 16-1 others

1995: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

LORD GLENVARA best recent effort 3½l 3rd of 13 to Viaggio in selling hurdle at Southwell (2m, good). REAL POPCORN 1¾l 3rd of 19 to Prideaux Prince in selling handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). COAST ALONG best recent effort 12l 2nd of 16 to Scottish Wedding in selling hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft). ROSCOMMON LAD best effort 21½l 3rd of 18 to Hamilton Silk in selling novices hurdle over course and distance.
Selection: ROSCOMMON LAD

2.25 CROXTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,160: 2m 1f 110yd) (12 runners)

201	24-P3F4	FINAL ACE 120 (F) (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 9-11-10	J Mogford (7)	97
202	61612-1	CHIEF JOSEPH 258 (F,G) (J O'Gorman) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-5	C Llewellyn	●
203	6/300P	CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 4 (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 9-11-3	S Wynne	–
204	5-1556U	DEVILRY 18 (G,S) (R Johnson) G Moore 6-11-3	J Callaghan	96
205	0-005	DOMINO NIGHT 50 (R Haggas) G Richards 6-11-3	B Harding (3)	–
206	2-0400U	HASHAR 4 (F) (P Wegmann) P Wegmann 8-11-3	R Davis	97
207	54430/4-	ICE MAGIC 195F (F Yardley) F Yardley 9-11-3	P McLoughlin	–
208	033445	ON THE TEAR 81 (F Lloyd) F Lloyd 10-11-3	S McNeill	83
209	P6S-10P	PRINCETHORPE 48 (F,S) (G Farndon) B Cambidge 9-11-3	Gary Lyons	–
210	00/0P5	JUST FOR A LAUGH 8 (Miss J Needham) J Needham 9-10-12	G Hogan (3)	–
211	0PPP-0U	MALFORD MADAM 7 (R Hawker) R Hawker 6-10-12	D Leahy	–
212	53-3213	PERHAPS 51 (BF,G) (H Winton) Miss H Knight 5-10-4	J F Titley	–

BETTING: 6-4 Chief Joseph, 5-2 Perhaps, 6-1 Devilry, 8-1 Domino Night, 20-1 Ice Magic, Hashar, On The Tear, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CHIEF JOSEPH beat Lustrino 9l in novice chase at Stratford (2m 4f, good). DEVILRY best effort 10l 5th of 7 to Lochnagrain in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). DOMINO NIGHT 28l 6th of 14 to Santa Concerto in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to soft). HASHAR distant last of 3 to Jacob's Wife in novice chase at Warwick (2m, good). ON THE TEAR 24l 5th of 9 to East Houston in novices chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm). PERHAPS 12l 3rd of 11 to Juftara in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good to soft).
Selection: DOMINO NIGHT

2.55 EDWARD SYMMONS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,615: 3m 110yd) (14 runners)

301	3451-PP	ALBERT BLAKE 18 (G,S) (Mrs T Kinsey) T Kinsey 9-11-10	J Lodder	80
302	312142	BANNTOWN BILL 100 (F,G,S) (E Scarth) M Pipe 7-11-8	D Bridgwater	89
303	240321	VERYVEL 11 (G,S) (D Lewis) J Bradley 5-11-8	R Johnson (3)	82
304	300305	OLD MONEY 8 (G) (Uncle Jacks Pub) C Broad 10-11-6	G Hogan (3)	–
305	11-46P3	HOLY STING 20 (S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Llewellyn	91
306	3U11PP	LAY IT OFF 8 (D,F,S) (J G O'Neill) J G O'Neill 7-11-3	S Curran (3)	83
307	1P-45U	QUITE A MAN 49 (F,S) (W Everall) W Jenks 8-11-1	T Jenks	89
308	3-F512F	AIRTRAK 6 (D,BF,F) (Amtrak Express) N Henderson 7-10-10	M A Fitzgerald	91
309	/5225/P	CWM ARCTIC 23 (Mrs B Brown) Mrs A Price 9-10-9	Mr M Jackson	–
310	0-13555	SAME DIFFERENCE 60 (F,G,S) (A Turnbull) A Jarvis 8-10-8	A Larnach (3)	86
311	P-0F340	GOLD PIGEON 5 (Contrac Promotions) B Rothwell 7-10-4	R Davis	●
312	P0/545-4	SENNA BLUE 8 (R Pugh) R Pugh 11-10-0	V Slattery	–
313	00/5P3-F	KHAKI LIGHT 7 (Miss A Cottrell) J Pickering 8-10-0	M Sharratt	–
314	P542-UF	PRIORY PIPER 7 (Mrs J Pickering) J Pickering 7-10-0	W Worthington	82

Long handicap: Senna Blue 9-9, Khaki Light 9-6, Priory Piper 9-4

BETTING: 7-2 Veryvel, 4-1 Banntown Bill, 9-2 Holy Sting, 6-1 Airtrak, 8-1 Lay It Off, 10-1 Quite A Man, 12-1 Same Difference, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BANNTOWN BILL 6l 2nd of 8 to Rocket Run in novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good to soft). VERYVEL beat Where's Willy 1¼l in 7-runner novices handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good). AIRTRAK ¾l 2nd of 6 to Fixturessecretary in novice chase at Southwell (3m 110yd, good). PRIORY PIPER 4l 2nd of 4 to Dannymoss in novices handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, firm), May 1995.
Selection: GOLD PIGEON

3.25 BERMANS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,710: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

401	021-333	BAYARIYKA 21 (F) (Paddock Potential Racing) N Henderson 5-12-0	M Lane (7)	93
402	0P-03	AKIYMANN 49 (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-9	D Bridgwater	85
403	1600	CIRACUSA 19 (G) (T Kelly) J Mackie 4-11-5	E Husband (3)	92
404	PP-21	BUCKLEY BOYS 7F (G) (Buckley Partners) A Bailey 5-10-13	T Kent	91
405	0200	COXWELL STEPTOE 18 (M Allsopp) Miss H Knight 6-10-7	J F Titley	82
406	60/0-P5	BELMORE CLOUD 18 (Mrs A Hartnett) M Pipe 7-10-7	Jamie Evans	92
407	30-42P0	ICE COLD IN ALEX 80 (J Bezasley) W Jenks 5-10-4	T Jenks	98
408	445/44-0	RAMPANT ROSIE 12 (G Kemp) G Richards 8-10-3	B Harding (3)	90
409	465-F30	DORMSTON BOYO 62 (Mrs R Lowe) T Wall 6-10-2	V Slattery	91
410	45-00	RIVERBANK ROSE 12 (G Wheildon) W Clay 5-10-2	Guy Lewis (3)	80
411	0/00/60	SCEPTICAL 49 (Claremont Management) J Glover 8-10-0	G Hogan (3)	92
412	6P-4034	MERRY NOELLE 7 (Mrs D Scott) E Owen 6-10-0	R Davis	●
413	00-66	WOT NO GIN 21 (M Penney) A J Wilson 7-10-0	R Johnson (3)	–
414	00-0500	KILTULLA 18 (Brampton Royal Oak) Mrs S Smith 6-10-0	R Wilkinson (7)	90
415	PP-5	LIFE AT SEA 153 (R Hancocks) F Jordan 5-10-0	J Lodder	–
416	00P	HOT DOG 77 (H Phipps) R Brotherton 6-10-0	L Harvey	–
417	P0/P	ALTHREY BLUE 89 (F Lloyd) F Lloyd 7-10-0	S McNeill	–

Long handicap: Wot No Gin 9-9, Kiltulla 9-4, Life At Sea 9-0, Hot Dog 8-8, Althrey Blue 8-7

BETTING: 4-1 Buckley Boys, 9-2 Bayariyka, 5-1 Ciracusa, 6-1 Merry Noelle, 10-1 Akiymann, 12-1 Coxwell Steptoe, Dormston Boyo, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

BAYARIYKA 6l 3rd of 21 to Landed Gentry in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, soft). BUCKLEY BOYS beat Nonios 3½l in 7-runner novices handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good). COXWELL STEPTOE best effort 2½l 2nd of 4 to Nothingtodowithme in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, firm). DORMSTON BOYO 2½l 3rd of 6 to Project's Mate in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm).
Selection: BAYARIYKA

3.55 HUGH PEEL CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,830: 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

501	F24-3	RINKY DINKY DOO 4P (G) (P Morris) P Morris 10-12-0	C Barlow (7)	–
502	U3F0-0F	SPURIOUS 4P (Mrs A Kelly) S Kelly 10-12-0	A Griffith (7)	–
503	F	WATCHIT LAD 6 (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 6-12-0	M Jackson (7)	–
504	2U1-U	SQUIRRELLSDAUGHTER 6 (F,G,S) S Brookshaw 9-11-9	Miss S Beddoes (7)	–

BETTING: 6-4 Squirrellsdaughter, 7-4 Rinky Dinky Doo, 9-2 Watchit Lad, 5-1 Spurious.

FORM FOCUS

RINKY DINKY DOO 45l 3rd of 11 to Whatafellow in restricted at Weston Park (3m, good) on penultimate start. SPURIOUS 34½l 6th of 15 to Rip Van Winkle in restricted at Eaton Hall (3m, good). WATCHIT LAD fell at last behind Wild Illusion in 14-runner amateur riders hunter chase at Ludlow (3m, good). SQUIRRELLSDAUGHTER beat Worthingtonpeanuts 6l in 12-runner ladies open at Chaddesley Corbett (3m, good to firm).
Selection: SQUIRRELLSDAUGHTER

4.25 CHIRK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,850: 2m 1f) (11 runners)

601	22154	JOCKS CROSS 18 (D,S) (Mrs G Harrison) G Richards 5-11-8	B Harding (3)	●
602	65	ARRYSU 48 (Miss S Bowerman) R Hollinshead 5-11-2	Miss S Sharratt	–
603	30-050	EL CORDOBES 81 (Mrs M Hickman) W Jenks 5-11-2	T Jenks	69
604	0-P0	JASONS FARM 7 (T Darlington) W Clay 6-11-2	Guy Lewis (3)	–
605	0	LINDA'S PRINCE 83 (J Witherow) O Brennan 7-11-2	M Brennan	–
606	020	MAJOR SIOUX 81 (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 5-11-2	R Wilkinson (7)	–
607	00-256	MANVULANE 46 (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 6-11-2	D McCain	71
608	005	SHANAVOGH 60 (S Graham) G Moore 5-11-2	J Callaghan	70
609	62	THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 55 (Miss A Murray) D Nicholson 5-11-2	R Johnson (3)	92
610	00-43	WINTER ROSE 228 (W Donohue) M Sheppard 5-11-2	J F Titley	57
611	PP	VIOWEN 11 (A McDonald) T Caldwell 7-10-11	Pat Caldwell	–

BETTING: 6-4 The Captain's Wish, 9-4 Jocks Cross, 7-1 Winter Rose, 10-1 Shanavogh, 14-1 El Cordobes, Arrysu, 16-1 Manvulane, 20-1 others

FORM FOCUS

JOCKS CROSS 14½l 5th of 20 to Dato Star in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. THE CAPTAIN'S WISH 5l 2nd of 17 to Wild West Wind in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). WINTER ROSE 6¼l 3rd of 8 to Ruby Vision in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: JOCKS CROSS

4.55 CHIRK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,850: 2m 1f) (10 runners)

1	204-01	CHARMING GIRL 19 (G) (C Cowen) O Sherwood 5-11-3	J Osborne	●
2	0-00P	ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 8 (F Lloyd) F Lloyd 6-11-2	S McNeill	–
3	0-00	BRASSIC LINT 6 (K Stanworth) J Bradley 6-11-2	R Johnson (3)	60
4	545-0	IAN'S BID 12 (Birmingham Consortium) C Broad 6-11-2	Mr A Wintle (7)	75
5	0P	IMATOFF 7 (Miss E Porter) C Jackson 6-11-2	D Leahy	–
6	P	NAPOLEON'S GOLD 95 (Bonapartes Partners) A Foster 6-11-2	G Hogan (3)	–
7	40-P	SLEAZEY 9 (J G O'Neill) J G O'Neill 5-11-2	S Curran (3)	–
8	060-	SON OF A GUNNER 375 (J Neville) J Neville 5-11-2	R Bellamy	–
9	00/0-3P	LADY BREYFAX 84 (Mrs J Sidebottom) Mrs J Sidebottom 6-10-11	Mr R Burton (7)	59
10	00	SINGING SCALLY 11 (S Adams) W Clay 5-10-11	Guy Lewis (3)	–

BETTING: 4-5 Charming Girl, 7-1 Ian's Bid, 10-1 Lady Breyfax, Son Of A Gunner, Sleazey, 12-1 Singing Scally, 14-1 Brassic Lint, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CHARMING GIRL beat Dream Ride ¾l in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). SON OF A GUNNER 24½l 6th of 18 to Supreme Genotin in National Hunt Flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. LADY BREYFAX 15¾l 3rd of 5 to Lajadhal in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: CHARMING GIRL (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
C Broad	5	14	35.7	C Llewellyn	9	42	21.4
D Nicholson	10	34	29.4	B Harding	4	23	17.4
M Pipe	20	71	28.2	D Bridgwater	11	68	16.2
O Sherwood	5	19	26.3	R Davis	4	27	14.8
G Richards	27	116	23.3	D J Burchell	3	21	14.3
N Twiston-Davies	15	67	22.4	S Wynne	7	62	11.3

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Wudimp. 2.30 Wisdom. 3.00 Morning In May. 3.30 In A Moment. 4.00 The Toaster. 4.30 Dancing Dancer. 5.00 Lord Fortune.

Carl Evans: 2.00 Wudimp.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.00 RABY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,184: 3m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

1	4-21	ACROSS THE CARD 11P (F,G,S) C Ramsay 8-12-0	W Ramsay (7)
2	0-12	ADMISSION 11P (G) N Chamberlain 6-12-0	Miss C Metcalfe (7)
3	F-P3	BARRY OWEN 4P (F,G,S) Mrs A Lockwood 10-12-0	Miss A Deniel (7)
4	35/3	BOWLANDS WAY 18P (F,G,S) Miss S Robertson 12-12-0	R Ford (7)
5	1/14	CARRIGEEN LAD 18P (F,G,S) Mrs J Read 9-12-0	R Wakley (7)
6	5P30	CROMWELL POINT 25P (G,S) S Wiles 10-12-0	N Wilson (5)
7	PP/R	LISNAVARAGH 5 J Parkes 10-12-0	P Murray (7)
8	-P11	POLITICO POT 11P (S) C Peckitt 9-12-0	S Whitaker (7)
9	P502	QUIXALL CROSSETT 11P E Came 11-12-0	K Green (7)
10	-432	TOM LOG 11P (F,S) Mrs C Wardroper 9-12-0	W Burnell (7)
11	21-2	WUDIMP 32 (F,G) Mrs J Storey 7-12-0	C Storey (7)
12	0P/F	CORNAMONA 3P Miss C Richardson 10-11-9	P Murray (7)
13	UP-2	FINAL CRUISE 18P Mrs K Bowen 7-11-9	M Rimell (5)
14	00/P	IM OK 3P Miss C Richardson 8-11-9	D Sherlock (7)

9-4 Wudimp, 5-1 Admission, 6-1 Across The Card, 7-1 Carrigeen Lad, 10-1 Politico Pot, 12-1 others.

2.30 HORNBY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,374: 2m) (13)

1		BEACON TOWERS 1012F M Hammond 6-11-3	D Bentley
2	40	CHARITY CRUSADER 18 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-3	P Niven
3	62	COUREUR 18 M Hammond 7-11-3	L Wyer
4	0	GONE ASHORE 81 M Barnes 5-11-3	P Waggott
5	0	MUSEUM 7 D Nicholls 5-11-3	S Mason
6	0555	PERSONIMUS 11 (BF) J Wilson 6-11-3	R Guest
7	1	OUR ROBERT 7 (D,S) J Fitzgerald 4-11-2	M Dwyer
8	6130	WISDOM 53 (CD,F) K Morgan 4-11-2	R Massey (5)
9	6-0	DURHAM DELIGHT 7 J Hellens 7-10-12	S Taylor (7)
10	00P	ON THE MOVE 7 J Turner 5-10-12	W Fry
11	321F	CENTAUR EXPRESS 8 (CD,BF,G) A Streeter 4-10-9	T Eley
12		TOP FELLA 184F P Dennis 4-10-9	N Smith
13		DOUBLE GLOW 5F N Bycroft 4-10-4	D Towler (7)

3-1 Coureur, 7-2 Our Robert, 11-2 Charity Crusader, 13-2 Wisdom, 8-1 Centaur Express, 10-1 others.

3.00 NEWBY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,051: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	5U21	MORNING IN MAY 16 (F) H Johnson 8-12-0	P Carberry
2	646F	NATIVE MONY 12 M Hammond 7-10-5	B Storey
3	5234	NOVA CHAMP 11 Mrs S Smith 8-10-3	R Guest
4	F0/	SERPHIL 382F (F,S) L Lungo 8-10-0	F Perratt
5	530P	SHUIL SAOR 21 (F) Mrs S Smith 9-10-0	L Donnelly (7)
6	0-40	WILLERFOSS 99 B Rothwell 6-10-0	J Supple (3)

4-5 Morning In May, 7-2 Native Mony, 6-1 Nova Champ, Willerfoss, 10-1 Shuil Saor, 12-1 others.

3.30 WEARDALE SELLING HURDLE (£1,968: 2m) (11)

1	002-	DOMAN 354 (S) J Fitzgerald 7-11-10	M Dwyer
2	34RU	MHEMEANLES 11 (F) J Wilson 6-11-10	R Guest
3	3050	AIDE MEMOIRE 7 (S) Mrs B Broad 7-11-5	T Reed
4	5060	BILLYTOBINSLAD 46 Mrs V Aconley 5-11-3	D Bentley
5	F0-5	DAYTIME DAWN 11 D Moffatt 5-11-3	D J Moffatt
6	0322	IN A MOMENT 8 (BF) T Barron 5-11-3	P Niven
7	463-	RED BEACON 252F J Goulding 9-11-3	J Supple (3)
8	0/-P	TELEPHUS 48F B McMath 7-11-3	V Smith
9	-640	TIGERSONG 8 Miss M Milligan 6-11-3	G Cahill (5)
10	00	BLOTOFT 89 Mrs S Austin 4-10-9	D Wilkinson
11	P0	NEBRANGUS 11 N Bycroft 4-10-9	D Towler (7)

9-4 In A Moment, 5-2 Doman, 6-1 Aide Memoire, 8-1 Red Beacon, 10-1 others.

4.00 PETER VAUX MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES CHASE (£3,090: 2m 3f) (7)

1	-214	THE TOASTER 91 (CD,F,G,S) J Quinn 9-12-2	E Callaghan (5)
2	-014	FRIENDLY KNIGHT 8 (G) J Haldane 6-11-2	T Reed
3	4223	HIGHLAND WAY 25 M Todhunter 8-11-2	M Dwyer
4	4S33	INGLETONIAN 46 (S) B Wilkinson 7-11-2	D Bentley
5	0F56	PERCY PIT 8 H Alexander 7-11-2	P Waggott
6	-344	SHAWWELL 82 (F,G) J Charlton 9-11-2	B Storey
7	06	TIMES LEADER 79 P Calver 7-11-2	L Wyer

9-4 The Toaster, Highland Way, Ingletonian, 6-1 Friendly Knight, 10-1 others.

4.30 IAN HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,101: 2m 3f) (10)

1	0341	JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 8 (C,G) A Streeter 5-12-1 (6ex)	C Rae (7)
2	6P43	GLENUGIE 11 (F) G Moore 5-12-0	N Bentley
3	0-00	RAIN-N-SUN 6 (G,S) J L Harris 10-11-13	R Guest
4	4201	MASTER OFTHE HOUSE 11 (F) M Hammond 10-11-12	B Storey
5	2-40	KNUCKLEBUSTER 12 R Fahey 6-11-11	L Wyer
6	3166	CANDID LAD 42 (F) F Storey 9-11-0	D Parker (3)
7	U000	FRET 8 (C,G,S) J Wainwright 6-10-13	M Dwyer
8	0230	DANCING DANCER 62 (D,F) D Geraghty 7-10-8	R Supple
9	0002	BARTON HEIGHTS 16 Mrs M Reveley 4-10-7	P Niven
10	25P3	LITTLE TINCTURE 82 Mrs T M-Skinner 6-10-6	Sophie Mitchell (5)

11-4 Barton Heights, 4-1 Master Ofthe House, Jemima Puddleduck, 6-1 others.

5.00 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,249: 2m) (11)

1	2-10	LORD FORTUNE 43 (G) M Hammond 6-11-9	P Niven
2	60	GENERATOR 8 T Easterby 5-11-2	L Wyer
3	0-0	HYA PRIM 149 N Chamberlain 5-11-2	Miss C Metcalfe (7)
4		MR HATCHET H Johnson 5-11-2	P Carberry
5	00-	TRANSCENDENTAL 340 J Quinn 6-11-2	M Dwyer
6		ORANMORE P Bowen 5-10-11	D Walsh (5)
7		AHWAAL J Norton 4-10-8	E Callaghan (5)
8		BUTTERWICK KING R Fahey 4-10-8	D Byrne
9		MILENBERG JOYS P Calver 4-10-8	B Storey
10	0	THE SHARROW LEGEND 46 D Eddy 4-10-8	G Cahill (5)
11	0	WELBURN BOY 11 R Woodhouse 4-10-8	D J Kavanagh (5)

7-4 Lord Fortune, 7-2 Ahwaal, 5-1 Mr Hatchet, 8-1 Generator, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Streeter, 4 winners from 7 runners, 57.1%; K Morgan, 13 from 39, 33.3%; L Lungo, 10 from 38, 26.3%; J Quinn, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Fitzgerald, 14 from 63, 22.2%; Mrs Reveley, 22 from 103, 21.4%.

JOCKEYS: M Dwyer, 19 winners from 64 rides, 29.7%; E Callaghan, 4 from 17, 23.5%; P Niven, 17 from 84, 20.2%; G Cahill, 3 from 21, 14.3%; T Reed, 12 from 85, 14.1%; W Fry, 4 from 31, 12.9%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Bolivar. 2.20 Head For Heaven. 2.50 Classic Image. 3.20 Camino. 3.50 Highgate Mild. 4.20 Namaste.

Carl Evans: 3.20 Highgate Mild.

GOING: SOFT TO HEAVY — SIS

1.50 NEWLEAF JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,490: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

1	00	BOLD CHARLIE 49 S Mellor 11-0	N Mann	–
2	524	BOLIVAR 11 R Akehurst 11-0	S Ryan (7)	●
3		CALLONESCY 20F D O'Brien 11-0	T J Murphy (3)	–
4	42	DRUM BATTLE 16 W G M Turner 11-0	A Thornton	79
5	00	HIGHLY CHARMING 19 W Muir 11-0	M Richards	59
6	0	KRATON GARDEN 11 T Casey 11-0	E Murphy	–
7	00	MORE BILLS 42 A Moore 11-0	M Batchelor (7)	–
8		REEFA'S MILL 157F J Neville 11-0	W Marston	–
9		RISING DOUGH 191F G L Moore 11-0	A P McCoy	–
10		STREAKY HAWK 20F J Pearce 11-0	J McLaughlin	–
11		BRICK COURT 108F R Johnson Houghton 10-9	D Gallagher	–
12		CALGARY GIRL 53F P Ritchens 10-9	A Tory	–
13	004	EQUITY'S DARLING 9 D O'Brien 10-9	G Bradley	74

Evens Bolivar, 5-1 Drum Battle, 8-1 Brick Court, 10-1 Rising Dough, 12-1 others

2.20 SET ASIDE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,202: 2m) (6)

1	4110	HEAD FOR HEAVEN 21 (S) R Hoad 6-12-0	Mr J Culloty (5)	–
2	FF05	REESHLOCH 21 (S) A Turnell 7-11-11	G Crone (7)	65
3	00-U	BRIGADIER SUPREME 7 P Butler 7-11-1	A P McCoy	–
4	-0F3	POLLY MINOR 23 G Enright 9-10-9	J R Kavanagh	–
5	0323	RICHU 7 (F) Mrs L Richards 8-10-9	M Richards	●
6	46-5	JIMMY THE JACKDAW 76 P Butler 9-10-5	T J Murphy (3)	84

7-4 Richu, 3-1 Head For Heaven, 4-1 Jimmy The Jackdaw, 5-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 16 winners from 43 runners, 37.2%; A Turnell, 9 from 30, 30.0%; S Dow, 16 from 55, 29.1%; G L Moore, 3 from 13, 23.1%; C Brooks, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Hoad, 6 from 46, 13.0%.

JOCKEYS: J R Kavanagh, 7 winners from 37 rides, 18.9%; W Marston, 3 from 16, 18.8%; R Greene, 4 from 22, 18.2%; A Tory, 5 from 32, 15.6%; G Bradley, 6 from 42, 14.3%; D Gallagher, 9 from 76, 11.8%.

2.50 LAMBERT & FOSTER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,977: 2m 110yd) (13)

1	-450	SHARED GOLD 6 (D,S) J Bosley 6-12-0	M Bosley	72
2	01-0	CLASSIC IMAGE 7 (D,G) H Manners 6-11-10	Mr A Charles-Jones	80
3	4P4P	DESERT PRESIDENT 9 R Hoad 5-11-0	B Fenton (3)	80
4	-002	TILT TECH FLYER 7 (D,S) I Jones 11-10-10	Miss E J Jones (7)	96
5	-306	WATER DIVINER 19 (D,F,G) K Wingrove 6-10-6	G Tormey (3)	90
6	-000	COBB GATE 83 (D,G) P Ritchens 8-10-6	W McFarland	●
7	5033	PRECIOUS WONDER 9 P Butler 7-10-5	T J Murphy (3)	85
8	50UP	NORTHERN HIGHLIGHT 9 T McGovern 5-10-4	A P McCoy	98
9	F600	ROGER'S PAL 9 (CD,G,S) A Moore 9-10-2	M Batchelor (7)	94
10	P050	BAY BOB 9 T Casey 7-10-0	S Laird (7)	76
11	P030	VERRO 6 K Bishop 9-10-0	S Burrough	80
12	U/P-	CATEMPO 289F S Dow 6-10-0	D Gallagher	–
13	0PUP	PYRRHIC VICTORY 18 R Stronge 5-10-0	B Powell	–

7-2 Shared Gold, 9-2 Precious Wonder, 5-1 Classic Image, 6-1 others.

3.20 NUTLEY NOVICES CHASE (£3,152: 3m) (10)

1	/1-6	WHO'S NEXT 18 (G,S) J Jenkins 8-11-10	S Fox (5)	–
2	0-56	ARCHER 20 (S) N Walker 8-11-6	B Powell	–
3	43	CAMINO 19 Miss H Knight 9-11-6	Mr J Culloty (5)	97
4	0P0	FINE IDEA 9 T Casey 7-11-6	A P McCoy	–
5	-F2F	MASTER HUNTER 60 T Casey 7-11-6	A Thornton	–
6	-000	METAL OISEAU 5 (G,S) P Ritchens 8-11-6	R Greene	–
7	435F	MR PRIMETIME 9 C Brooks 8-11-6	G Bradley	–
8	404P	QUARRY HOUSE 8 D Chappell 8-11-6	D Gallagher	72
9	325P	TEATRADER 9 (F,G,S) Mrs L Richards 10-11-6	M Richards	79
10	-003	KNOCKAVERRY 8 (G,S) M Wilkinson 8-11-1	P Crowley (7)	●

9-4 Camino, 3-1 Knockaverry, 7-2 Mr Primetime, 10-1 others

3.50 EDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,035: 3m) (7)

1	P0-0	DEEP ISLE 8 (G,S) B Llewellyn 10-12-12	J L Llewellyn (5)	–
2	111-	BALLYANDREW 340P (G,S) A Hodge 11-12-5	Miss S Gritton (7)	–
3	/1-3	BINNEY BOY 11P (S) J Dulosee 7-12-5	M Felton (5)	–
4	1U/3	DIRECT 11P (D,S) J Edwards 13-12-5	B Potts (7)	–
5	2-P3	GOODSHOT RICH 4 (CD,G,S) C Brooks 12-12-5	E James (7)	●
6	15-1	HIGHGATE MILD 10P (G,S) Miss S Scott 11-12-5	J Culloty (5)	–
7	1/1-	AMAZON LILY 368P (S) Mrs J Eales 9-12-0	M Gorman (7)	–

11-4 Direct, 7-2 Goodshot Rich, 9-2 Ballyandrew, 5-1 Highgate Mild, 6-1 others.

4.20 GUMMER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,795: 2m 110yd) (5)

1	3U05	NAMASTE 5F (CD,G,S) R Hoad 8-11-10	Mr J Culloty (5)	92
2	1312	TICKERTY'S GIFT 5 (C,S) G L Moore 6-11-0	M Attwater (7)	96
3	62-0	WORDY'S WONDER 19 (D,G,S) L Wordingham 8-10-9	R Farrant	85
4	004-	EHTEFAAL 289F (F) J King 5-10-6	G Upton	80
5	3021	MINSTER'S MADAM 9 (D,S) J Neville 5-10-6 (7ex)	W Marston	●

11-8 Tickerty's Gift, 7-2 Namaste, Minster's Madam, 5-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.40 Desert Invader. 2.10 Lift Boy. 2.40 Rubbiyati. 3.10 Galapino. 3.40 Celestial Choir. 4.10 No Submission. 4.40 Lord Sky.

Newmarket Correspondent: 3.10 GALAPINO (nap).

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.40 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div I: £2,996: 6f) (10 runners)

1	-344	DEEPLY VALE 18 (S) G L Moore 5-11-7	K Goble (4)
2	4413	DESERT INVADER 5 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 5-11-6 (7ex)	Miss R Clark
3	-013	LOCHON 29 (D,BF,F,G) J Eyre 5-10-13	Miss Diana Jones
4	0-22	BROOKHEAD LADY 9 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 5-10-9	A Evans (7)
5	4351	NEWINGTON BUTTS 20 (D,G) K McAuliffe 6-10-5	T McCarthy
6	000-	THE FED 128 (F,S) J Pickering 6-10-0	Miss E George (7)
7	058-	NOMADIC DANCER 201 M Saunders 4-9-13	Mrs C Williams (7)
8	0605	FIERY FOOTSTEPS 4 S Campion 4-9-12	Mrs S J Campion (7)
9	626/	BOLD TIME MONKEY 872 M Tate 5-9-10	Miss S Talbot (7)
10	001/	MISS XAVE 1650 (D,F) A Chamberlain 10-9-0	S Howe (7)

3-1 Desert Invader, 7-2 Newington Butts, 4-1 Lochon, 11-2 others.

2.10 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div II: £2,996: 6f) (9)

1	3543	SEA-DEER 18 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-11-7	Miss R Clark
2	6315	LIFT BOY 13 (CD,F,G) A Moore 7-11-3	Mrs J Moore (4)
3	6605	BEST KEPT SECRET 14 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 5-10-12	A Evans (7)
4	-320	FAEZ 48 (S) R Simpson 6-10-8	Miss L Pope (7)
5	200/	PRINCE ROONEY 523 (F,G,S) P Butler 8-10-6	J Goldstein (7)
6	0045	LIFE IS PRECIOUS 14 (D,S) R Hollinshead 4-10-3	Mrs S Bosley
7	000	FIGHTER SQUADRON 248 (D,F,G,S) R Peacock 7-9-10	Mrs C Peacock (7)
8	405	HO MEI SURPRISE 4 B Preece 4-9-7	Miss L Boswell (7)
9	006	BLYTON STAR 9 Miss J Craze 8-9-0	W Wenyon (7)

100-30 Lift Boy, 7-2 Faez, Sea-Deer, 5-1 Best Kept Secret, 8-1 others

2.40 TEMPEST MAIDEN STAKES (£3,615: 1m) (13)

1	350-	DOSSES DAN 7J B Preece 4-9-10	F Lynch (7)
2	60	SHOWTIME BLUES 11 A Bailey 7-9-10	D Wright (3)
3	5	BLACK AND AMBER 11 P Webber 4-9-5	N Adams
4	2	RUBBIYATI 13 C Britain 4-9-5	M Larsen
5	6	TIRRA-LIRRA 14 C Britain 4-9-5	D R McCabe (3)
6	0	BLONDANE 9 S Bowring 3-8-6	C Teague (5)
7	00-	CHIEF MOUSE 132 R Charlton 3-8-6	S Sanders
8	55-	RED TIME 268 M Saunders 3-8-6	A McGlone
9	0-	TIROLS TYRANT 194 Mrs A Swinbank 3-8-6	G Bardwell
10	530-	WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 103 J Eyre 3-8-6	T Williams
11	44-3	CLASSIC BEAUTY 8 R Harris 3-8-1	D Biggs
12		LUCITINO S Williams 3-8-1	J Tate
13		STATE CIRCUS Lord Huntingdon 3-8-1	Dale Gibson

4-1 State Circus, 9-2 Rubbiyati, 5-1 Classic Beauty, 11-2 Tirols Tyrant, 6-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Charlton, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; M Johnston, 33 from 126, 26.2%; Mrs M Reveley, 11 from 44, 25.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 16 from 69, 23.2%; S Williams, 9 from 44, 20.5%.

JOCKEYS: W Woods, 12 winners from 58 rides, 20.7%; Amanda Sanders, 9 from 50, 18.0%; J Tate, 9 from 54, 16.7%; D Wright, 21 from 168, 12.5%; D Harrison, 14 from 113, 12.4%.

3.10 CYCLONE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,182: 1m 100yd) (7)

1	165-	DOUBLE DIAMOND 82 (C,G) M Johnston 9-7	T Williams
2	-021	CARMARTHEN BAY 8 (D,G) G L Moore 9-1 (5ex)	A Whelan (3)
3	040-	SUALTACH 137 (F) R Hollinshead 8-13	F Lynch (7)
4	4311	GALAPINO 14 (C,G) C Britain 8-7	M Larsen
5	1-05	LE SPORT 4 (C,G) A Bailey 8-1	D Wright (3)
6	-611	KINGDOM PRINCESS 26 (C,D,G) M Camacho 8-0	L Charnock
7	-504	VICTIM OF LOVE 14 (C,G) R Charlton 7-12	G Bardwell

9-4 Galapino, 3-1 Le Sport, 4-1 Carmarthen Bay, 9-2 Kingdom Princess, 7-1 Double Diamond, 10-1 Sualtach, 20-1 Victim Of Love.

3.40 HURRICANE HANDICAP (£5,256: 1m 4f) (11)

1	011-	RIVER KEEN 95 (CD,F,G) R Armstrong 4-10-0	W Woods
2	044-	CHATHAM ISLAND 182 (D,F,G) C Britain 8-10-0	M Larsen
3	18-1	NORTHERN UNION 14 (CD,G,S) M James 5-9-12	P Robinson
4	-114	CELESTIAL CHOIR 12J (C,D,BF,F,G,S) J Eyre 6-9-6	D Pears (3)
5	2612	MENTALASANYTHIN 25 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-3	Angela Gallimore (7)
6	1146	FIELD OF VISION 7 (C,F,G) M Johnston 6-8-12	T Williams
7	-852	JOHNS ACT 14 (CD,G,S) D Haydn Jones 6-8-9	D Harrison
8	-222	CALDER KING 9 (F,S) J Eyre 5-8-6	P Fessey (5)
9	0531	BACKVIEW 12 (CD,G) B Llewellyn 4-8-5	J Wilkinson (7)
10	-131	CUANGO 18 (D,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-8-5	F Lynch (7)
11	1411	CLAQUE 16 (G) D Chapman 4-7-10	L Charnock

7-2 Northern Union, 9-2 River Keen, 6-1 Celestial Choir, 13-2 Johns Act, 7-1 Mentalasanythin, 8-1 Chatham Island, Backview, 10-1 others.

4.10 BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES (£3,023: 1m 1f 79yd) (13)

1	5302	NO SUBMISSION 5 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 10-9-4	A Culhane
2		HIGHLAND SPIN 11J Mrs M Reveley 5-8-12	S Copp (7)
3	4000	JON'S CHOICE 9 (C,G) B Preece 8-8-12	N Adams
4	-024	JUNGLE PATROL 13 (BF,F) C Murray 4-8-12	M Tebbutt
5	55/5	SARUM 6 (F,G) C Wildman 10-8-12	C Rutter
6	0-00	THOMAS CROWN 8 N Walker 4-8-12	J Stack (3)
7	00-0	TOP PET 6 (F) R Akehurst 6-8-12	S Sanders
8	4452	ZUNO FLYER 8 A Moore 4-8-12	F Lynch (7)
9	05-0	CANNIZARO 36 (G) R Williams 4-8-7	D Biggs
10	006-	CHASTLETON 164 (CD,G) M Channon 4-8-7	Candy Morris
11	6000	LADY ELIZABETH 7 K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-7	M Larsen
12	-303	MISS ZANZIBAR 23 (F) R Fahey 4-8-7	DOUBTFUL
13	00	TAYLORS REVIVAL 11 H Collingridge 5-8-7	Dale Gibson

7-2 Jungle Patrol, 4-1 No Submission, 6-1 Zuno Flyer, 13-2 Chastleton, 7-1 Sarum, Cannizaro, 8-1 others.

4.40 LADBROKE SERIES HANDICAP FINAL (£5,576: 5f) (10)

1	2412	CHADWELL HALL 14 (CD,G,S) S Bowring 5-10-0	C Teague (5)
2	0000	LITTLE IBNR 14 (C,D,F,G) P Evans 5-9-12	Amanda Sanders (5)
3	0033	LEIGH CROFTER 14 (CD,F,G,S) P Cundell 7-9-6	D Griffiths (5)
4	3212	FEATHERSTONE LANE 6 (CD,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-9-5	D Harrison
5	1124	KIRA 6 (CD,G) J Eyre 6-9-3	D Pears (3)
6	6003	LORD SKY 12 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-2	Angela Gallimore (7)
7	1212	BOFFY 21 (CD,G) B Baugh 3-9-0	Iona Wands (7)
8	2506	CHEEKY CHAPPY 14 (CD,F,G) D Chapman 5-8-5	P Fessey (5)
9	-063	GAGAJULU 21 (D,F,G) P Evans 3-7-9	L Charnock
10	-402	RENNYHOLME 4 J Hetherton 5-7-7	N Adams

7-2 Boffy, 4-1 Featherstone Lane, 9-2 Chadwell Hall, 6-1 Leigh Crofter, 7-1 Gagajulu, 7-1 Kira, 8-1 Rennyholme, 10-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: good to soft

2.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, Mr President (D Gallagher, 15-8 fav); 2, Coolree (5-2); 3, Fools Errand (5-2). 5 ran. 5l, 8l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.50; £1.20, £1.60. DF: £3.20. CSF: £6.89.

2.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Alltime Dancer (J A McCarthy, Evens fav); 2, Legible (33-1); 3, Logical Step (14-1). 13 ran. 2l, 5l. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.80; £1.20, £7.00, £2.00. DF: £44.10. Trio: £91.50. CSF: £35.30.

3.10 (2m 1f ch) 1, Nemuro (P Holley, 4-1); 2, Sublime Fellow (15-8 fav); 3, Too Sharp (7-2). 5 ran. NR: Fierce. Nk, 7l. D Elsworth. Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £11.35.

3.40 (3m ch) 1, Do Be Brief (W Marston, 4-1); 2, Philip's Woody (9-4); 3, Distinctive (15-8 fav). 6 ran. 3l, 9l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £4.70; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £4.30. CSF: £12.99.

4.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Harding (N Mann, 9-4 fav); 2, Jimmy's Cross (4-1); 3, Manners Mirror (4-1). 9 ran. 12l, 4l. S Mellor. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £3.50. Trio: £4.90. CSF: £11.06. Tricast: £30.05.

4.40 (2m 110yd flat race) 1, Nasone (P Hide, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Gracefield (4-1); 3, Ivory Coaster (7-1). Tilston 3-1 jt-fav. 14 ran. 1l, 5l. J Gifford. Tote: £4.50; £1.70, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £9.90. Trio: £41.40. CSF: £17.49.

Placepot: £13.80.

Quadpot: £6.10.

Sedgefield

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Jomove (C McCormack, 11-4 fav); 2, Clover Girl (12-1); 3, Dolly Prices (10-1). 13 ran. ½l, 8l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.70; £2.00, £2.10, £2.60. DF: £20.90. Trio: £82.80. CSF: £35.80. Tricast: £277.94.

2.30 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Abbey Lamp (P Carberry, 5-1); 2, Miss Nosey Oats (15-8 jt-fav); 3, Hillview Auction (50-1). Ron On The Run 15-8 jt-fav (pu). 16 ran. NR: Tess O'Tully. 3½l, 11l. J Johnson. Tote: £5.50; £1.30, £2.30, £15.60. DF: £7.90. Trio: £224.20. CSF: £14.69.

3.00 (3m 4f ch) 1, Ifeee (D Walsh, 7-2); 2, Pims Gunner (3-1 fav); 3, Al's Alibi (12-1). 8 ran. 6l, 3l. P Bowen. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £6.10. CSF: £13.74. Tricast: £100.65.

3.30 (3m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, D'Arblay Street (S McDougall, 14-1); 2, Tallywagger (6-1); 3, Pride Of May (9-4 fav). 8 ran. 12l, 13l. W Kemp. Tote: £15.80; £2.50, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £22.30. CSF: £85.76. Tricast: £238.81.

4.00 (2m 5f ch) 1, Cross Cannon (T Reed, 11-1); 2, Joe White (7-1); 3, Juke Box Billy (2-1). Rustic Air 11-8 fav. 9 ran. 8l, 2½l. J Hellens. Tote: £11.80; £1.60, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £31.00. Trio: £44.60. CSF: £84.13. Tricast: £303.26.

4.30 (2m 1f ch) 1, Weaver George (M Dwyer, 5-1); 2, Rebel King (14-1); 3, Briar's Delight (7-2). Port In A Storm 7-4 fav. 10 ran. 11l, 4l. J Hellens. Tote: £6.70; £1.40, £2.10, £1.80. DF: £23.10. Trio: £20.90. CSF: £62.83.

5.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Shallow River (R Dunwoody, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Star Performer (2-1 jt-fav); 3, All On (14-1). 13 ran. 1½l, 2½l. R Collins. Tote: £2.90; £1.80, £1.30, £2.80. DF: £2.10. Trio: £23.00. CSF: £6.92.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,985.68 carried forward to Bangor today).

Placepot: £80.30. Quadpot: £19.80.

Leicester

Going: good to soft, soft in places

2.20 (3m 4f 110yd ch) 1, A Windy Citizen (Mr R Hicks, 9-2); 2, Pamela's Lad (5-1); 3, Freddie Fox (16-1). Elite Governor 100-30 fav. 15 ran. ¾l, 20l. Mrs C Hicks. Tote: £6.00; £2.20, £2.60, £4.30. DF: £7.00. Trio: £74.50. CSF: £24.04.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Time Enough (Mr E James, 11-2); 2, Sartorius (2-1 fav); 3, Wayuphill (9-1). 11 ran. NR: Clown Around, Star Oats. 12l, 20l. C Brooks. Tote: £7.40; £1.90, £1.40, £3.70. DF: £6.90. Trio: £65.40. CSF: £17.01. Tricast: £94.20.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Flame O'Frensi (Miss J Cumings, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Kambalda Rambler (13-2); 3, Hermes Harvest (6-4 jt-fav). 8 ran. 5l, 5l. K Cumings. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £10.87.

3.50 (3m ch) 1, Ryde Again (Mr B Pollock, 9-4); 2, Peajade (5-1); 3, Wild Illusion (4-6 fav). 3 ran. NR: Hermes Harvest. 8l, 15l. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £3.30. DF: £4.10. CSF: £8.68.

4.20 (2m 1f ch) 1, Halham Tarn (Mr A Charles-Jones, 33-1); 2, Busman (9-1); 3, Micherado (2-1 fav). 12 ran. NR: Sausalito Boy. 15l, 7l. H Manners. Tote: £19.40; £4.70, £3.10, £1.50. DF: £103.40. Trio: £154.80 (part won, pool of £111.22 carried forward to 4.00 at Bangor today). CSF: £256.55.

4.50 (3m ch) 1, Howaryasun (Mr D S Jones, 6-5 fav); 2, Woodhay Hill (20-1); 3, Tangle Baron (10-1). 10 ran. 5l, 4l. Mrs C Hardinge. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £5.30, £3.30. DF: £28.20. Trio: £94.70. CSF: £22.87.

Placepot: £36.60. Quadpot: £12.50.

Blinkered first time

BANGOR: 4.25 Manvulane. CATTERICK BRIDGE: 3.30 Tigersong, 4.30 Glenugie. LINGFIELD PARK: 2.20 Reeshloch, 3.20 Archer, 4.20 Namaste. WOLVERHAMPTON: 2.40 Dosses Dan, 4.10 Thomas Crown.

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Popularity of Cronje's team contrasts with England's arrogance

South Africa avoid the tourist traps

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
in Lahore

Kirsten, the South Africa opener, steers the ball into the off side during his innings of 83 in the victory over Holland in Rawalpindi yesterday

TO BELIEVE that South Africa will win this World Cup, one must depend on the evidence of eyes and ears, and ignore precedent. The disorderliness of one-day cricket makes it rare for any country to win a string of successive internationals, yet South Africa registered their tenth in Rawalpindi yesterday, a sequence they must extend to 13 to take the title.

It is a staggering run of form, even if six of the victories were at the expense of England, and the tenth came clinically against the amateurs of Holland. There is an impetus to their cricket and it has not been acquired by happy accident. South Africa look so good because they have prepared for the competition in ways that other teams have not even considered.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

Take manners. It is fashionable in Pakistan this week to bait and belittle the England team. They are, at present, an easy target, and yet there is more behind it than results. England are unpopular here, whereas if South Africa were to win in the Gaddafi Stadium on March 17, it would be generally acclaimed as the best alternative to a home triumph.

The South Africans have made it their business to become popular, and if that sounds uncomfortably unctuous, it is worth reflecting upon the alternative. To tour the sub-continent is to have the patience tested daily, and those who fail the test arouse sensitivities and fall victim to interpretations that do not trouble sportsmen elsewhere.

England have affronted local expectations too often and if some of the episodes can be dismissed as misunderstandings, others betray an ill-fitting arrogance. In the affluent setting of the Gymkhana Club in Karachi, for instance, one player marched through a group of autograph hunters, instructing them to "Go back to your corner shops". An added absurdity was that they were all undoubtedly richer than him, as well as more polite.

The South Africa players are not angelic, but they are trained to do the right thing. The team has a public relations manager on tour, as England conspicuously do not, and the players are expected to attend appropriate functions smart and smiling, not scruffy and scowling. Hansie Cronje, the captain, has also mastered enough of the Urdu language to converse adequately with local dignitaries. These things do not win cricket matches, but they help build a spirit, and they certainly make friends. If this was all South Africa were good at, they would soon be heading home as jolly good losers. But their attention to the details of preparation and playing is similarly thorough.

The brilliance of their fielding, now plainly the best in the world, relates to their methods of practice rather than any shared, natural athleticism. Their routines are designed to simulate match situations. "Intensity is the important thing," Bob Woolmer, the coach, said. "That, and variation. We must always keep the players interested."

The laptop computer that Woolmer produces at the start of each game is now among the fascinations of the tournament. Details of every ball are logged, an extreme example of the coach's enthusiasm, though one not easily scorned. Woolmer, who might so easily have been enlisted by England, still speaks readily of his former Test captain, Mike Brearley. South Africa have employed doctors and dieticians, but, thus far, no one in the psychological field, where Brearley now works. If he was available, says Woolmer, it would be different.

All the evidence suggests England would not be so enlightened, because they remain rooted in dogma and prone to suspicion of the unknown. South Africa stride into new territory with a swagger, which is why it is easier to believe that they will break with the one-day game's law of averages and make it 13 straight wins than to credit England with the properties of Lazarus.

South Africa's victory yesterday was by a margin of 160 runs, one fewer than the contribution of Andrew Hudson. It was done professionally, dismissively, but Cronje allowed for no complacency. "We came here to win eight games," he said. "Five have been won, but the hard part is just about to begin."

RAWALPINDI SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Zuiderent b Aponso	83
A C Hudson c Zuiderent b Gouka	161
*W J Cronje c Lubbers b Cantrell	41
D J Cullinan not out	19
J H Kallis not out	17
Extras (lb 5, w 2)	7
Total (3 wkts, 50 overs)	328

B M McMillan, S M Pollock, †S J Palframan, P L Symcox, C R Matthews and A A Donald did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-186, 2-274, 3-301.

BOWLING: Bakker 10-1-64-0; Lubbers 8-0-50-0; de Leede 10-0-59-0; Aponso 10-0-57-1; Cantrell 10-0-61-1; Gouka 2-0-32-1.

HOLLAND

N E Clarke c Pollock b Donald	32
P E Cantrell c and b Matthews	23
T B M de Leede b Donald	12
K J van Noortwijk c Palframan b Symcox	9
F Aponso c Kirsten b Symcox	6
B Zuiderent run out	27
†M Schewe b Matthews	20
E Gouka c Kallis b Pollock	19
R F van Oosterom not out	5
*S W Lubbers not out	2
Extras (lb 7, w 5, nb 1)	13
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	168

P J Bakker did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-70, 3-81, 4-86, 5-97, 6-126, 7-158, 8-163.

BOWLING: Pollock 8-0-35-1; Matthews 10-0-38-2; Donald 6-0-21-2; Cronje 3-1-3-0; Symcox 10-1-22-2; McMillan 4-2-5-0; Kallis 7-1-30-0; Cullinan 2-0-7-0

Man of the match: A C Hudson.

Umpires: Khizer Hayat and S G Randell.

Hesitant counties fumble hand-outs

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

WITH the next World Cup set for England in 1999, county clubs confident — or even just hopeful — of staging matches are already looking at how they can raise their ground capacities and enhance facilities. Unfortunately, the delay in the setting up of the English Cricket Board (ECB), which will establish for the first time a national development plan for the sport, is holding up plans for several such redevelopments.

On Monday evening, the Sports Council deferred all decisions concerning applications for major schemes from cricketing bodies — which include proposals from MCC, Surrey, Hampshire and Durham — until the ECB is set up, which should concentrate minds at this week's meeting of county officials at Lord's.

"We have no overall structure within which to assess applications," a Sports Council statement read yesterday. "The lack of a strategy gives us no clear indication about how additional money generated by increased spectator accommodation would be reinvested at the sport's grassroots level.

"The council is aware of the importance of these issues — particularly at county level and leading up to the 1999 World Cup — but we want to be sure that the sport's governing bodies are clear in which direction English cricket is going." The ECB is unlikely to be set up before 1997.

The proposals of Hampshire and Durham, though, both include grassroots development through the creation of centres of excellence. Durham are seeking clarification from the Sports Council but Hampshire's plans have received a setback. The club had planned to start work on its new playing area at Eastleigh this month. "We've lost the window for starting this year," Mike Taylor, the club's marketing manager, said yesterday.

JOHN GILES

Cork's troublesome knees receive hands-on treatment

Worry over Cork

England's injury problems mount by the day. Monday's departing casualty was Neil Fairbrother, who headed home with a damaged hamstring; yesterday's was Dominic Cork, who left a practice session in Karachi for the local hospital and a scan on his troublesome right knee.

The scan revealed no new damage but Cork has only three days to recover before England's quarter-final tie with Sri Lanka in Faisalabad. He began 48 hours of physiotherapy yesterday and the England camp remained optimistic of Cork's prospects. Phillip Bell, the team doctor, has advised Cork to rest for at least six weeks after the tournament.

Indignant denial

The Sri Lanka Cricket Board denied reports yesterday that its team would deliberately lose to Kenya today to take revenge on West Indies for refusing to play in Colombo. A win for Kenya would eliminate West Indies from the competition.

Ana Punchihewa, the board president, explained that the story in Kenya's *Daily Nation* had quoted unconfirmed reports on Radio Australia, thus further straining his country's fragile relations with Australia, whose team also refused to play in Colombo. "The Sri Lanka board vehemently protests at statements falsely and maliciously ... published without verification of their veracity," Punchihewa said.

Whatever today's result, the World Cup may have seen the last of Tariq Iqbal, the Kenya wicketkeeper whose tremulous dismissal of Brian Lara triggered last week's sensational events in Pune.

"We wanted a bit more mobility in the field and Tariq was a bit slow getting to the stumps," Jasmer Singh, the Kenya tour manager, said yesterday.

Back page lead

At last, England have won an important match at the World Cup. The English press beat their Pakistan counterparts at the Karachi Gymkhana club by 81 runs, Derek Pringle chipping in with 58 from 15 balls, including six sixes off an over from Muzzafar Ejaz, of the *Urdu News*.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

JAPE

(c) A prank or trick. An old-fashioned English school-story word, having resonances of Greyfriars, *The Fifth Form at St Dominic's*, and the English genre of boarding-school yarns with dormy-feasts and jolly japes. To be used about the antics of the office comedian.

SUFFUMIGATE

(b) To subject to smoke and fumes, more especially from below. From the Latin *sub* under + *fumus, fumigare* smoke and to smoke.

THIBLE

(c) (Pronounced *thibble*.) A chemical, alchemical or apothecary's spatula for shovelling powder or grains. You could extract a lot of pleasure from this rare word if you ever found yourself dealing with an apothecary, or even a hostess, called Sibyl.

BOTHAN

(c) A booth or hut, more specifically one that is used as an illegal drinking den.

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WORLD CUP DETAILS

Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result.

Teams finishing level on points will be split by the most wins, then on the result between the two, then net run-rate (NRR) — runs scored per over minus runs conceded per over. If three or more teams finish level on points, most wins will again be used as the first tie-break, then net run-rate.

All times GMT.

GROUP A

	P	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	4	4	0	0	8	0.90
Australia	5	3	2	0	6	0.88
India	4	2	2	0	4	0.39
West Indies	5	2	3	0	4	-0.12
Kenya	4	1	3	0	2	-0.50
Zimbabwe	4	1	3	0	2	-0.96

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Hyderabad; Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo, forfeit; India beat Kenya by 7 wkts, Cuttack; Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Colombo; India beat West Indies by 5 wkts, Gwalior; Australia beat Kenya by 97 runs, Visakhapatnam; Sri Lanka beat West Indies, Colombo, forfeit; Australia beat India by 16 runs, Bombay; Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 5 wkts, Patna; Kenya beat West Indies by 73 runs, Pune; Australia beat Zimbabwe by 8 wkts, Nagpur; Sri Lanka beat India by 6 wkts, Delhi; West Indies beat Australia by 4 wkts, Jaipur.

FIXTURES: Today: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur (03.30); Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy (03 30)

GROUP B

	P	W	L	T	Pts	NRR
South Africa	5	5	0	0	10	2.06
Pakistan	4	3	1	0	6	0.99
New Zealand	4	3	1	0	6	0.94
England	5	2	3	0	4	0.07
UAE	5	1	4	0	2	-1.83
Holland	5	0	5	0	0	-1.95

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs, Ahmedabad; South Africa beat UAE by 169 runs, Rawalpindi; New Zealand beat Holland by 119 runs, Vadodara; England beat UAE by 8 wkts, Peshawar; South Africa beat New Zealand by 5 wkts, Faisalabad; England beat Holland by 49 runs, Peshawar; Pakistan beat UAE by 9 wkts, Gujranwala; South Africa beat England by 78 runs, Rawalpindi; Pakistan beat Holland by 8 wkts, Lahore; New Zealand beat UAE by 109 runs, Faisalabad; South Africa beat Pakistan by 5 wkts, Karachi; UAE beat Holland by 7 wkts, Lahore; Pakistan beat England by 7 wkts, Karachi; South Africa beat Holland by 160 runs, Rawalpindi

FIXTURES: Today: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore (09 30).

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: Sri Lanka v England, Faisalabad (04 00). Mar 9: 3rd group A v runner-up group B, Bangalore (09.00). Mar 11: South Africa v 4th group A, Karachi (04.00). Mar 11: 3rd group B v runner-up group A, Madras (09 00).

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta (09.00). Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh (09 00).

FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore.

RADIO CHOICE

A century of mass butchery

20/20: A View of the Century — Killing. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

More's the pity. John Tusa is correct when he says that any road that threads its way through the history of the 20th century is marked by bloody milestones. They bear names such as Auschwitz, Los Alamos and Hiroshima. *How could* he be wrong? An estimated 70 million men, women and children were butchered by state-sponsored actions between August 1914 and April 1945. Tusa leaves it to the psychologists — perhaps in a later programme — to answer the question: what has made us so resourceful and relentless in the theory and practice of killing? His brief tonight is to record that this century will be known as the one in which men could boast of being "dutiful unto death" — so long as the death was somebody else's.

Maugham's Eye View: The Creative Impulse. *Radio 4, 12.25pm.*

Short though it is already, Somerset Maugham's tale of a worm (Desmond Barrit) that turns and his battle-axe spouse (Sylvia Syms), whose hacking edge gets blunted, is even shorter in Neville Teller's radio version. Yet, thanks to skilful compression, little of the original's fun has been lost. The central character of the woman writer whose works are nectar for the phoney intellectual set but stodge for everybody else is not diminished on air. The point is still maliciously made that her fame results almost entirely from her brilliant use of the semicolon. Dirk Bogarde is the storyteller, a comparatively new role for this one-time screen idol. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo, incl the Golden Hour and more confessions **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** the Net **2.00** Kevin Greening **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and **6.15** the Net **7.00** Evening Session, with Steve Lamacq and Mary Ann Hobbs **9.00** Radio Tip Top with Kid Tempo and the Ginger Prince **10.00** Mark Radcliffe, with the Melons in session **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Sue Cook **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** Paul Heiney **7.00** Jim Lloyd with Folk on 2 **8.00** Marooned with a Mandolin (3/3) **8.30** The Richer Mix. Celtic music (4/6) **9.00** Kaiso! Calypso **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine **11.30** Wildlife News **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Trevor Brooking's Football Night **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anne Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT** **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: *Spring Torrents* **7.30** Discovery **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Thirty-Minute Drama: *The House of Cards* **8.45** Making It Up **9.00** News in German **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf: *Spring Torrents* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Composer of the Month **1.00** News **2.00** News **2.05** *Outlook* **2.30** *Megamix* **3.00** News in German **3.15** The Greenfield Collection **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News *in German* **5.00** *Europe* **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Sports **6.00** News **6.30** News *in German* **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: X-Press **8.00** New **9.00** News **9.05** *Business* Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Western Music **10.00** News **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Pop Short **11.15** Sport **11.45** From Our Own Correspondent **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Making It Up **12.45** Britain **1.00** News **1.10** Press **1.15** New Ideas **1.35** A Day in the Life of an Insect **1.45** Country Style **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Sport **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Assignment **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Humphrey Burton **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Gardening Forum (r) **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

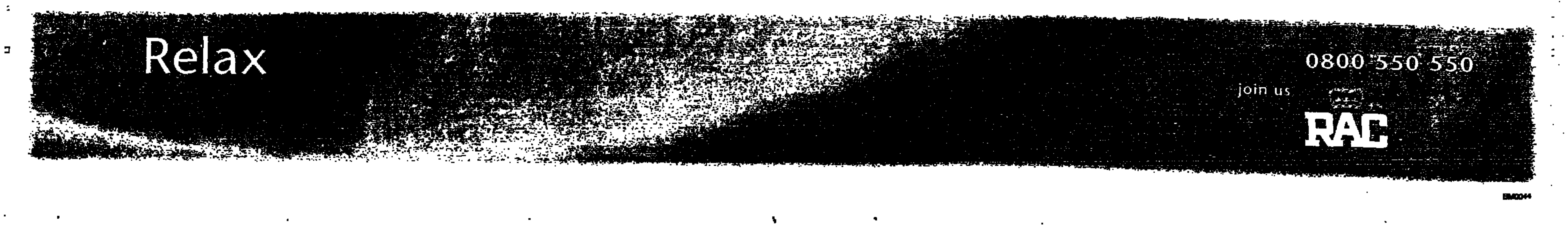
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Hummel (Bassoon Concerto in F); Dukas (Polyeucte); Finzi (It was a lover and his lass, Let Us Garlands Bring); Vivaldi (Concerto in C, Op 4 No 7, La Stravaganza); Sullivan (Incidental music: The Merchant of Venice)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Turina (La Procesion del Rocio); Schubert (String Quartet No 8 in B flat); Grieg (Holberg Suite); **9.54** *Cherkassky Encore*: Godowsky (Waltz Poem No 4)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Vaughan Williams (The Call); **10.03** Auber (Overture: Le Domino noir); Mahler (Kindertotenlieder); Sallinen (String Quartet No 3); **10.52** Four Swedish Songs; **11.04** Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 2); Friedmann (Frühlingsstimmen); Brahms (O Tod, Wie bitter bist du, Op 121 No 3)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Delibes and Massenet
1.00pm Concert Hall. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Lorna Anderson, soprano; London Baroque under Charles Medlam, perform Handel (Trio Sonata in D, Op 5 No 2; Salve regina; Trio Sonata in G minor, Dresden No 2; Italian Cantata No 22: Tu fedel? Tu costante?)
2.00 Schools. Together **2.20** Time and Tune **2.40** Drama Workshop
3.00 Midweek Choice, Including Handel (Suite in A)
4.00 Choral Evensong. From SS Andrew and Peter Church, Blofield, Norfolk
5.00 The Music Machine in Nashville, with Sarah Walker
5.15 In Tune. Smetana (Wallenstein's Camp); Casals (Song of the Birds); Goldmark (Violin Concerto No 1 in A minor)
7.30 Towards the Millennium. Stravinsky (Agon); Messiaen (Chronchromie); Stockhausen (Gruppen)
9.00 The Quatermass Memoirs
9.20 Endellion Quartet (r)
10.45 Night Waves. The historian Robert Darnton talks about the books which topped the bestseller lists in pre-revolutionary France
11.30-12.30am Voices (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek
10.00-10.30 News; The Trade Rag (FM only). Nick Baker looks at *Farmers Weekly* (3/5)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time with Geoffrey Smith, Anne Swithinbank and Bob Flowerdew (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Maugham's Eye View. See Choice **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; No Rights, Only Wrongs. First part of a two-part play set in 19th-century England, exploring the true story of Caroline Norton (r)
2.45 See It My Way. Blind broadcaster Peter White examines the myths about blindness (4/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini reviews the musical *Tommy*
4.45 Short Story: Expecting by Emma Donoghue
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 News 6.30 Counterpoint (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 20/20: A View of the Century. See Choice
8.05 Out of the Fire (2/6) (r)
8.35 True Encounters. Real-life dramas based on the casebook of American psychiatrist Irvin Yalom (2/6)
9.00 Eureka. Hazel Rymer, of the Department of Earth Sciences at the Open University, talks to Barbara Myers (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Autobiography by Charles Chaplin. Read by Nigel Hawthorne (3/10) (r)
11.00 The Joys of Yiddish
11.15 Date with Fate. Love Bites. Written by Phil Whelans and Gary Parker (4/4)
11.30-12.00 Paradise Lost In Space. (FM only) First of a six-part comedy by Colin Swash. With Tony Robinson, David Haig and Louise Lombard (r)
11.30 Today In Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl **12.27pm** Weather **12.30 The Late Book: Foreign Parts.** Siobhan Redmond reads Janice Galloway's story (3/7)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**



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Have you ever heard of a hero called Ted?

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Ted Hoffman is a big man with broad shoulders and a bald head, whose job as a big-time Los Angeles defence lawyer gives him a surprising degree of natural authority. "Call for Ted!" says every low-life celebrity with blood on his hands, or powdery substances up his nose. In **Murder One** (BBC2) Ted stands with legs astride on airport tarmacs, in silhouette against an evening sun, the very picture of manly resolve. And somehow, the fact that the pink rays illumine his prominent ears does not detract from the heroism. The avuncular name Ted does not harm him either. (In Anthony Mann's film *Heat*, the tough Robert De Niro character is called Neil, which is pretty odd too.)

So *Murder One* is the latest Steve Bochco import — and it is everything one has learnt to expect. Mike Post music whips up the pulse rate, and then there's the rest: fast editing, a tone of ultra seriousness and blue-grey photography, phones trilling incessantly in the background while good-looking people stride importantly from room to room, demanding an explanation. Since *Hill Street Blues*, the direction of each Bochco series has been increasingly sophisticated. Gone are the days, thank heaven, when every conversation was shot in the same primitive way — ie, twice (once from each side), and then spliced together. Once you had noticed it, this irritating technique was enough to make a sensitive person watch *Hill Street Blues* with their eyes closed.

So, what's *Murder One* about? Well, it's about 23 weeks long, ho ho, so don't go missing it, as it's a continuous story. Ted (Daniel Benzali) is engaged by Richard Cross (Stanley Tucci) to defend him on a murder rap. Did Cross kill a 15-year-old girl in the apartment building he owns? Cross says no: Ted raspingly assures his eager young team that the case against Cross is "more sizzle than steak". But Detective Polson of the LAPD (Dylan Baker) uncovers evidence, and arrests Cross. Ted and Polson snarl and swipe at each other, like jackals with a piece of meat: meanwhile Cross looks shifty and keeps changing his story. Ted's office juniors scramble for the chance of "second seat" ("Me, Ted! Choose me!") which seems to mean a lot to them. It all looks very promising.

When real people are asked on television "How did that make you feel?" there is usually little time for anything complex in their replies. Last night's **Straight from the Heart** (BBC2) was therefore unusually ambitious: a series of intercut interviews with people who had committed adultery, and paid the price, and in whose memories joy, pain and guilt were inseparably mixed. Jean, an attractive woman now in her sixties, had been deserted by her Territorial Army lover soon after her husband threw her out: she had a baby: and perforce lost touch with her legitimate son. But when she talked about the affair her face still lit up with the memory of love. "It was magical," she said. "To know that a person really wants you, it enhances your whole life."

Despite years of exposure to such confessions on television, I still don't understand what persuades people to make them. Their value is undeniable, however, if they reveal how a commonplace story has singular repercussions — as was the case in all the confessions last night. Each person emerged with dignity, simply because all their feelings were explored. Fred and Gill started their affair when Fred was a telephone engineer and Gill a housewife. Soon they were spending all day in bed, while Gill's husband Derek was at work.

So far, so ordinary, you might think — especially the bit about Fred hiding naked in a wardrobe when Derek came home unexpectedly in the afternoon. But then Gill became pregnant with Fred's daughter, and Derek adored the child, thinking it his own. And Fred got divorced, and Gill developed multiple sclerosis, and finally she left Derek and took her daughter with her. It may all have been inevitable, but that didn't make it easy. "It was terrible," said Fred, running a hand across his head. "It was the most terrible part of my life."

Great news. The new female locum in **Peak Practice** (ITV) has lost no time in becoming the love interest. Kissing took place at roughly 9.50pm in her second week. "What, where, how?" I said, as she released Will, smiling coyly. Lumme. As far as I could remember, this was the first time they had been alone. But things happen fast in *Peak Practice*. In real life, it takes ages to achieve a blazing fire, too; or get hypothermia.

Finally, **Without Walls** (Channel 4) last night upheld its reputation for cutting-edge arts coverage with two superfluous half-hours each having nothing to do with the arts. Miles Kington's *In Search of the Holy Foreskin* was a naive journey through cultural history, requiring him to marvel at Catholic relics in Italy as though visiting from a distant planet, after which Tony Parsons, in *Equal but Different*, applied his mighty phrase-making brain to the issue of gender confusion, and made the notion of visiting a distant planet seem actually quite attractive.

Parsons's main beef in this silly, silly film seemed to be that drunken women were embarrassing to look at; his oh-so-provocative contention that women should stay at home and do cleaning. "You can fake an orgasm but you can't fake an erection," he said conclusively at the end — an insight of questionable persuasiveness which seemed nevertheless to make him very proud.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (32896)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (63167)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6266235)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2692631)
9.45 Kilroy.(s) (8416186)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (39631)
12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (2543051) **12.05pm Turnabout** (s) (5966693)
12.30 Going for a Song (s) (51235)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (66254)
1.30 Regional News and weather (46164083)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94194709)
2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (8872457)
2.40 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (r) (s) (1586186)
3.30 Moomin (6283761) **3.55 Bitsa** (s) (5257631) *4.10 Rugrats* (r) (s) (6186493) **4.35 Out of Tune** (Ceefax) (s) (2259780) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3008032) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1618780)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (849032)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (419)
6.30 Regional News magazines (159)
7.00 This Is Your Life presented by Michael Aspel,who opens the big red book on another notable life (Ceefax) (s) (7273)
7.30 Here and Now. Sue Lawley meets some of Britain's youngest prodigies; and Sankha Guha reports on plans to import millions of tons of oil through Milford Haven (Ceefax) (s) (983)
8.00 How Do They Do That? Eamonn Holmes and Jenny Hull present the programme with the answers. This week features the inspiring story of a young mother who refused to accept the medical diagnosis that her son, born with a rare from of epilepsy and severe brain damage, had little chance of survival; and the Speedo lab in Nottingham, where researchers believe they have developed the ultimate swimming costume made from Teflon-coated fibres (Ceefax) (s) (199167)
8.50 Points of View. (Ceefax) (s) (246457)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax)and weather (3438)
9.30 Silent Witness: Long Days, Short Nights. Conclusion of this two-part story starring Amanda Burton as an outspoken forensic pathologist. Dr Ryan discovers something that could spell the end for the arrogant Sebastiane Bird (Ceefax) (s) (366419)
10.25 Sportsnight. Desmond Lynam, with Gary Lineker, introduces action from tonight's FA Carling Premiership matches; coverage of the ABA boxing finals from the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham: a preview of the new Formula One season by Steve Rider; and a profile of the American runner Michael Johnson (s) (2815780)
11.55 FILM: From the Hip (1987) starring Judd Nelson, Elizabeth Perkin and John Hunt. An ambitious, unorthodox young lawyer is assigned to defend a man accused of a brutal murder. Directed by Bob Clark (Ceefax) (164964)
1.45am Weather (1261638)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Maths (9024612) **6.25** Earthquakes (9010419) **6.50** Language and Literature (6228877)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1120167)
7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (44032) **8.00 Run the Risk** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5836612) **8.25 Wishing** (r) (6367612)
8.40 The Record (s) (6444983)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Mathsphere (6263148) **9.25** English Express (6276612) **9.45** Words and Pictures (9519877) **10.00** Playdays (4951099) **10.25** Numbertime (7201588) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (3744235) **11.00** Around Scotland (6442273) **11.20** Music Makers (6235877) **11.40** Study Ireland (4823525) **12.00** TV6 (21506) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (59877) **1.00** The Geography Programme (82632693) **1.20** Zig Zag (82652457) **1.40** Come Outside (94185051)
2.00 Wishing (r) (s) (20940457)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (4521631)
3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3499457) **3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross** (Ceefax) (s) (6100032) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (4427322)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (612)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (896)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (3208964)
5.40 A Week to Remember (b/w) (654051)
5.50 A Different Country Practice (598457)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science-fiction adventures (Ceefax) (s) (221099)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. Buck falls into the evil clutches of Princess Ardala (r) (329490)
7.30 The Car's the Star. Quentin Willson in praise of the Fiat 500 (r) (Ceefax) (s) (668235)
7.50 A Bad Time to Be a Man: Whose Role Is It Anyway? Jimmy Warne, a redundant shipyard worker turned house-husband, reflects on the stereotyping of the sexes (Ceefax) (s) (478709)
8.00 Ken Hom's Hot Wok. More Chinese cuisine (Ceefax) (s) (1235)
8.30 University Challenge. Exeter University take on Liverpool John Moores (Ceefax) (s) (3070)

Miners work their own pit (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Modern Times: Into the Light** (Ceefax) (s) (158815)
9.50 CHOICE **A Man's World: The Boy** (Ceefax) (s) (169693)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (s) (913761)
11.15 Murder One: Chapter One (r) (Teletext) (s) Followed by **Weather** (538245)
12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil. Political chat show (s) (47649)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Travelog
Channel 4, 8.30pm

There could be no better choice for a travel programme which prides itself on the personal, the idiosyncratic and the funny than the plummy voiced art critic, Brian Sewell. Set down in the medieval French town of Albi, Sewell manages to commit only three of the ten deadly sins, but he explains that it was a short stay. Being the birthplace of Toulouse-Lautrec, Albi gives Sewell a chance to indulge his expertise but he is a multipurpose visitor, equally at home with the food as the architecture. Lying on his back in the cathedral to admire the painted ceiling may seem an affectation, but on second thoughts it seems the obvious way. The actress Meera Syal hosts the supporting item, enthusing, until the snow and the loneliness start to get the better of her, about the remote beauty of Northumberland.

Dispatches: The Torture Trail
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Much has happened since this exposé of a particularly murky corner of the British arms trade was first shown last year. For one thing, Martyn Gregory, the producer and reporter, won a libel action against Michael Heseltine arising from the programme. For another, *The Torture Trail* recently won an award from the Royal Television Society. Gregory's film shows how leading British companies, with the support of the Government and despite public denials, have been selling weapons overseas that can be used for torture. Posing as an arms dealer, Gregory penetrated to the heart of the arms industry and established a connection between the export of electro-shock batons and shields and torture practised by regimes such as Saudi Arabia and China. A sequel to *The Torture Trail* is being shown next week.

Modern Times: Into the Light
BBC2, 9.00pm

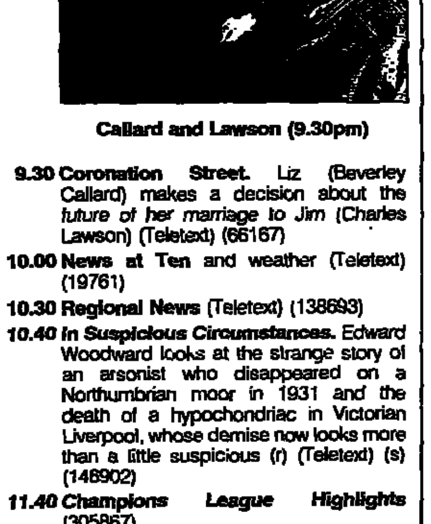
When Tower Colliery in Mid Glamorgan was declared no longer economic by British Coal, the miners decided to risk £8,000 each of their redundancy money to keep the pit open. John Alexander's sharply-observed film charts the first year in the life of Britain's only worker-owned pit and the last deep mine in South Wales. The venture soon proves British Coal wrong by securing an export order to France and a contract with British Steel and after ten months, profits are booming. But there are rumbles from the workforce about pay differentials and mutterings about the level of executive salaries. An admiring visit from the then Welsh Secretary, John Redwood, causes the men to reflect on whether they are running a socialist co-operative or have become darlings of the Tory free market.

A Man's World: The Boy
BBC2, 9.50pm

From Steve Humphries, who gave us *A Secret World of Sex* and *Forbidden Britain*, comes another illuminating excursion into oral history. The subject is the experience of being a man in the first half of the 20th century and the first-hand accounts, some of which go back to before the First World War, are reinforced by archive film. Boyhood is the topic tonight and Humphries's contributors have been chosen to encompass a wide range of experience. Few of these now elderly men look back on their childhoods with much affection. They were expected to be physically brave, suppress their emotions and show unquestioned allegiance to the idea of the British master race. School, whether in the public or private sector, meant rigid discipline and frequent canings and sensitive boys stood little chance in a culture which glorified fists. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4655772)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2677322)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (4938148)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (8133761)
10.35 This Morning (98192235)
12.20 Regional News (Teletext) (2549235)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (7326902)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7301693)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (2928524)
2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (30275877)
2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30287612)
2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4880709)
3.20 News (Teletext) (9994047)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (9895548)
3.30 Potamus Park (s) (5249612) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (2254167) *3.50* **Twinkle the Dream Being** (s) (2243051) **4.00 Garfield and Friends** (4481065) **4.20 How 2** (r) (Teletext) (5429506) **4.40 Delta Wave** (Teletext) (s) (1072631)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (9145983)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (398983)
6.00 Home and Away (845877)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (922490)
6.50 Wish You Were Here . . . ? Judith Chalmers travels around Sweden by train, Anna Walker tries white-water rafting and bungee-jumping in New Zealand, and Tris Payne takes to the water in Sicily (Teletext) (s) (975475)
7.20 Champions League — Live: Real Madrid v Juventus. Bob Wilson presents live quarter-final action from the Bernabeu Stadium (18492896)



Callard and Lawson (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street. Liz (Beverley Callard) makes a decision about the future of her marriage to Jim (Charles Lawson) (Teletext) (66167)
10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (19761)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (138693)
10.40 In Suspicious Circumstances. Edward Woodward looks at the strange story of an arsonist who disappeared on a Northumbrian moor in 1931 and the death of a hypochondriac in Victorian Liverpool, whose demise now looks more than a little suspicious (r) (Teletext) (s) (146902)
11.40 Champions League Highlights (305867)
12.45 God's Gift (419303)
1.45 Dear Nick (2136484)
2.45 Bushell on the Box (s) (74397)
3.15 Murder, She Wrote (r) (1640281)
4.05 Coach (s) (55419939)
4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (65620)
5.00 The Village Show (r) (40823)
5.30 Morning News (35804)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-6.50 Wales Tonight (922490)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (2557254)
12.55 Coronation Street (7301693)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (37353916)
1.55 Home and Away (42775419)
2.25 Vanessa (30278964)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice. Kate and Harry prepare for their wedding (3720631)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9145983)
6.00-6.50 Westcountry Live (209877)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7301693)
1.25 Chain Letters (37353916)
1.55 A Country Practice (94191612)
2.20 Vanessa (30279693)
2.50-3.20 Our House. Featuring a couple who have a 1950s American diner in their cellar (4880709)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9145983)
6.25-6.50 Central News and Weather (922490)
2.40am The Good Sex Guide . . . Late (2890281)
3.35 Jones and Jury (18693620)
3.55 On the Live Side (98420378)
4.00 Jobfinder (4778007)
5.20 Asian Eye (8301649)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (7301693)
1.25 Home and Away (37353916)
1.55 A Country Practice (94191612)
2.20 Vanessa (30279693)
2.50-3.20 The Lady Killers (4880709)
5.10 Home and Away (9145983)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Freescreen (80438)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (952631)
6.20-6.50 Jungle on Your Doorstep (854525)
5.00am Freescreen (40823)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (6225780) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (56877) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (36438) **9.30 Schools: 9.30 Living and Growing** (9509490) **9.45 Book Box** (9537273) *10.00 Stage Two Science* (2156439) **10.15 The French Programme** (1965341) **10.35 Irish Scientists and Inventors** (3964790) **10.55 Film and Video Showcase** (3753983) **11.07 Schools at Work** (6579964) **11.15 The Mix** (6232780) **11.30 Rat-a-tat-tat** (4838457) **11.45 First Edition** (4826612) **12.00pm House to House** (49902) **12.30 Wowser** (77273) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (59964) **1.30 FILM: Dreamboat** (80102964) **3.05 Terrytoons** (6544326) **3.10 The Montel Williams Show** (5001964) **4.00 Backdate** (780) **4.30 Motormania** (964) **5.00 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd** (1086896) **5.15 5 Pump: Ffeil** (3010877) *5.30 Countdown* (544) *6.00* **Newyddion/News** (201419) **6.15 Heno** (752544) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (156815) **7.25 Bubble Gum** (381490) *8.00 Dim Cliw* (9631) **8.30 Newyddion/News** (5438) **9.00 Dispatches** (493490) **9.45 The Long Johns** (461490) **10.00 Brookside** (611631) **10.35 ER** (145273) **11.35 Cybill** (190693) **12.05-2.05am NBA XXL** (761910)

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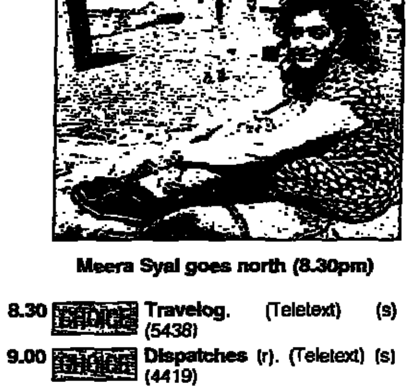
6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (6225780)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (56877)
9.00 Fifteen to One (r). (Teletext) (s) (36438)
9.30 Schools: Living and Growing (9509490) **9.45** Book Box (9537273) **10.00** Stage Two Science (2156439) **10.15** The French Progamme (1965341) **10.35** Irish Scientists (3964790) **10.55** Film and Video Showcase (3753983) **11.07** Schools at Work (6579964) **11.15** The Mix (6232780) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (4838457) **11.45** First Edition (4826612)
12.00 House to House. Political magazine introduced by Sheena McDonald (49902)
12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (68728) **1.30 Madeline** (s) (42781070)
1.55 Paul Kane Goes West. The author/artist relives his travels among the North American Indians (94108902)
2.15 FILM: Diplomatic Courier (1952, b/w) starring Tyrone Power and Patricia Neal. Espionage thriller directed by Henry Hathaway. (Teletext) (557877)
4.00 Backdate. (Teletext) (s) (780)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (964)
5.00 Ricki Lake. The guest is controversial chat show host Ken Hamblin. (Teletext) (s) (5946029)
5.45 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (662070)
6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based teen comedy drama series (r). (Teletext) (s) (843419)
6.25 Home Improvement. American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (851438) **6.55 Murun Buchstansangur** (614254)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (138235)
7.55 The Slot (471896)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9631)



Meera Syal goes north (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Travelog.** (Teletext) (s) (5438)
9.00 CHOICE **Dispatches** (r). (Teletext) (s) (4419)
10.00 ER: A Miracle Happens Here. Hectic drama series set in a Chicago hospital. (Teletext) (s) (7506)
11.00 Friends. As new year approaches, the gang makes a pact to celebrate the occasion at Monica and Rachel's apartment, without bringing along any partners (r). (Teletext) (s) (1693)
11.30 Moviewatch. Film magazine presented by Johnny Vaughan and Caroline Tudor (s) (504457)
12.05am NBA XXL. Total coverage of the game between the LA Lakers, now strengthened by Magic Johnson, and the reigning champions, the Houston Rockets (s) (761910)
2.05 FILM: Rain or Shine (1930, b/w). A Frank Capra comedy drama starring Joe Cook and Joan Peers (220755)
4.00 Schools: Canan Na Cloinne Bige (92620)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg (71983) **8.30** Press Your Luck (5439186) **8.50** Love Connection (4574273) **9.20** Court TV (6747235) **9.50** Oprah Winfrey (1284544) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6541254) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (2386525) **12.00** Beechy (16186) **1.00pm** Hotel (92506) **2.00** Geraldo (63693) **3.00** Court TV (8780) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5347032) **4.15** Undun (1229525) **5.00** Star Trek (9032) **6.00** The Simpsons (6051) **6.30** Jeopardy! (9371) **7.00** LAPD (6231) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6815) **8.00** Earth 2 (22761) *9.00* Picket Fences (42525) **10.00** Star Trek (45612) **11.00** Melrose Place (96419) **12.00** David Letterman (4096133) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4999216) **1.30** In Living Color (74991) **2.00** Hit Mix (1587533)

SKY NEWS

6.00am Sunrise (8103506) **9.30** Destinations (68341) **10.30** ABC Nightline (76070) **1.30pm** CBS News (42815) **2.30** Parliament Live (75254) **3.30** Parliament Live (5709) **6.30** Tonight (83273) **7.30** Sportsline (36187) **8.30** Newsmaker (6186) **9.00** News and Business (420438) **11.30** CBS News (97419) **12.30am** ABC News (10261) **1.30** Tonight (64754) **2.30** Newsmaker (54571) **3.30** Parliament Replay (39216) **4.30** CBS News (48823) **5.30** ABC News (77804)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Marlowe (1969) (67254) **8.00 Brigadoon (1954)** (87273) **10.00 No Child of Mine (1993)** (36457) **12.00 How I Got into College (1989)** (60693) **1.30pm Proudheart (1993)** (7450254) **2.20 Quest for Justice (1993)** (378457) **4.00 Fury at Smugglers' Bay (1960)** (4964) **6.00 No Child of Mine (1993)** (11815) **7.30 E! News Week in Review** (1963) **8.00 Bad Girls (1994)** (51273) **10.00 The Hudsucker Proxy (1994)** (136761) **11.55 Lake Consequence (1993)** (527544) **1.30am Deadly Invasion: The Killer Bee Nightmare (1994)** (64736) **3.00 Men Don't Tell (1993)** (80571) **4.30 Quest for Justice (1993)** (43373)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Ivanhoe (1952) (6506) **6.00 Let's Make Love (1960)** (21070) **8.00 To Be or Not to Be (1983)** (33815) **10.00 Wanted: Dead or Alive (1986)** (325693) **11.55 The Face (1958)** (993438) **1.40-3.15am The Mummy's Shroud (1966)** (203562)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Pop Pirates (1984) (3288902) **7.05 Electric Eskimo (1979)** (6378815) **8.05 The Old Curiosity Shop (1984)** (91236322) **10.00 The Scarlet Blade (1963)** (36439) **12.00 The Cracksman (1963)** (75438) **2.00pm Baby, Take a Bow (1934)** (34506) **4.00 The Old Curiosity Shop (1984)** (2506) **6.00 Bonanza: Under Attack (1995)** (47070) **8.00 Red Rock West (1993)** (69815) **10.00 The Assassin (1993)** (418877) **11.50 Inserts (1975)** (283815) **1.45am UFO: The Movie (1993)** (911277) **3.15 While Justice Sleeps (1994)** (51283755)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70629525) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (60681099) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (53205728) **7.30** Ducktales (53284235) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (91136167) **8.30** Wonderland (91135438) **9.00** Disney (70638273) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60665051) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (91148902) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54358235) **11.30** Pooh Corner (54359964) **12.00** Quack Attack (91139254) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24915438) **1.00** Wonderland (53204099) **1.30** FILM: Gulliver's Travels (49712032) **3.00** The Birthday Dragon (20818983) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (88394815) **4.00** Quack Attack (88373322) **4.30** Ducktales (88379506) **5.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (20820728) **5.30** Danger Bay (88393186) **6.00** Tarzan (88390099) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88374051) **7.00** Sinbad (20800964) **7.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (91399902) **8.30-10.00** FILM. Never (66844761)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Alpine Skiing (15186) **8.30** Skiing (43693) **9.30** Cross-country Skiing (52493) **10.30** Basketball (48322) **11.00** Euroski (58612) **11.30** Skiing (16525) **1.00pm** Football (14341) **3.00** Equestrianism (60457) **4.00** Skiing (6135341) **4.55** News (1523631) **5.00** Formula 1 (8709) **5.30** Motors (15970) **7.00** Dancing (38419) **8.00** Aerobics (480051) **9.50** News (545273) **10.00** Pro Wrestling (76506) **11.00** Tennis (40693) **11.30-12.30am** Equestrianism (20761)

SKY SPORTS

6.00am Cricket World Cup: India v Zimbabwe (5456273) **11.30** Cricket World Cup Pakistan v New Zealand (1069493) **5.30pm** Inside the PGA Tour (2254) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (9167) **6.30** Rugby (2849) **7.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights (545506) **10.00** Sky Sports Centre (45235) **10.30** Inside the PGA Tour (54983) **11.00** Grass Roots Rugby (55525) **11.30** International Motorsport (59099) **1.30am** Rebel Sports (27007) **2.00-2.30** Sports Centre (14620)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm World Cup Hall of Fame (2824187) **10.30** World Cup Classics: Italy v West Germany 1970 (2450457) **12.00-1.00am** The British Open's Best 18 Holes (8039842)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

5.15am Benny Hinn **5.45** Good Morning Europe **4.00** Thought for the Day **4.05** Worship **4.15** Kidz TV **4.30** Highway to Heaven **5.00** Kenneth & Gloria Copeland **5.30** Christian Music TV **5.45** Carman Times Two

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5474780) **7.55** As the World Turns (6370612) **8.50** Peyton Place (6620761) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7782780) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6425273)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4710254) **11.30** Video Trips (4711983) **12.00** Alaska Video Postcards (2823438) **12.30pm** The Restaurant Show (9276254) **1.00** Getaway (1315235) **1.30** Around the World in 30 Minutes (9275525) **2.00** Roads to Freedom (4703693) **2.30** Discover Your World (6166548) **3.00** Globetrotter (4722728) **3.30** Around the World in 30 Minutes (7548490) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46305728)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Stalin (4726544) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Patton (9284273)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Battlestar Galactica (3822032) **8.00** Tremors (12147877) **8.35** Sci-Fi Buzz (8374896) **10.00** Close (4871070) **1.00am** Battlestar Galactica (7083281) **2.00** FILM The Dark (9544133) **3.40-4.00** Inside Space (32622262)

Tim Robbins stars in *The Hudsucker Proxy* (Sky Movies, 10.00pm)

TLC

9.00am Painting (7600877) **9.30** Grow Your Own (2136419) **10.00** Two's Country (3253341) **10.30** Our House (7699761) **11.00** Painted House (2256506) **11.30** Running Repairs (2257235) **12.00** Julia Child (7613341) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2130235) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8953326) **1.30** Furniture (2139506) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4049051) **2.30** Gardens (6351902) **3.00** Two's Country (4088186) **3.30-4.00** Old Houses

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (5703803) **7.30** Neighbours (2753588) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7612612) **8.30** EastEnders (7611983) **9.00** The Bill (7602235) **9.30** The Sullivans (2138877) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (3834092) **11.00** Bullseye (2258964) **11.30** Odd One Out (2259693) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7622099) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2132693) **1.00** EastEnders (8153344) **1.30** Sykes (1423070) **2.15** Home James (1195983) **2.50** Sorry! (7712490) **3.30** The Bill (6332877) **4.00** Casualty (16355902) **5.05** Every Second Counts (3601167) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo! (1964419) **6.25** EastEnders (6881032) **7.00** Morecambe and Wise (9414490) **8.00** Bullseye (4061273) **8.30** Sorry! (4040780) **9.00** Capital City (9443902) **10.00** The Bill (1940896) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (5624326) **11.25** Pulaski (4921544) **12.25am** FILM. Django (5583571) **2.05-3.00** Shopping (4085620)

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (72964) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (90896) **7.00** Ready or Not (22983) **7.30** California Dreams (42090) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (98715) **8.30** Tiny TCC (29610341) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (50123761) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (3322) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (8964) **3.30** Pink Panther (5167) **4.00** California Dreams (7902) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (3186)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4949877) **6.15** Blue (530411) **6.45** Toucan Tex (8218896) **7.00** Battfink (8135457) **7.05** Grimmy (4258964) **7.45** Rugrats/Doug (580916) **8.15** Aaahh! Real Monsters (4692490) **8.30** Rocko (31032) **9.00** Chipmunks (55612) **9.30** Pee-Wee (92831) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (39148) **11.00** Children's BBC (42512) **12.00** Magic School Bus (42148) **12.30pm** Grimmy (70419) **1.00** Global Guts (53728) **1.30** Visionaries (62490) **2.00** Dungeons and Dragons (3631) **2.30** Galaxy High (9780) **3.00** Pet Shop (9438) **3.30** Mighty Max (1525) **4.00** Santo Bugito (7772) **4.30** Rugrats/Doug (9544) **5.00** Sister Sister (4983) **5.30** Wishbone (7916) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (7709) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1761)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6342254) **4.30** Fire (6348438) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4063631) **5.30** Terra X (6322490) **6.00** Voyager (6352631) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (3437212) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World (6349167) **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (4069815) **8.30** Disaster! Disasters (4048322) **9.00** Warriors (9441544) **10.00-12.00** Classic Wheels (9444631) **11.00** Disaster! Living with Disaster (1208493)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Mesa of Lost Women (3709254) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (2126032) **2.00** The Saint (3258836) **3.00** Danger Man (2255877) **4.00** FILM Operation Bullshine (3799877) **5.30** 120 Volt Miracles (6359544) **6.00** Robin Hood (6356457) **6.30** UFO (2364506) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6336693) **8.00** The Saint (9425506) **9.00** The Gossip Show (2263896) **9.30** Weekly World News (2147525) **10.00-12.00** FILM Blame It on Rio (2254148)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (1419) **7.30** Family Ties (2083) **8.00** Entertainment (8457) **8.30** Wings (2902) **9.00** Soap (41322) **9.30** Laverne & Shirley (83983) **10.00** Entertainment (43877) **10.30** Frontline (52525) **11.00** Nightstand (30877) **12.00** The Clinic (12991) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (72723) **1.00** Wings (56741) **1.30** Soap (25649) **2.00** Laverne & Shirley (12262) **2.30** Entertainment (31397) **3.00** Frontline (98007) **3.30-4.00** The Clinic (23649)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9835983) **7.00** Kilroy (1337341) **8.00** Esther (8725815) **8.30** Gardeners' World (8724186) **9.00** Food and Drink (9284322) **9.35** Kate & Allie (5255896) **10.05** Jerry Springer (6888836) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8462525) **11.55** Brookside (5439542) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7133186) **1.25** Crosswits (7532167) **2.00** Agony Hour (5842322) **3.00** Live at Three (4286167) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4659032) **4.30** Crosswits (9065439) **5.05** Lingo (93692322) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4679896) **6.00** Bewitched (4676709) **6.30** Brookside (6218099) **7.05** Delia Smith's Cookery Course (9789051) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (4748341) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1993877) **9.00** Cagney and Lacey (6839709) **10.00** Charlie's Angels (6832896) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (9941821)

FAMILY CHANNEL

6.00pm Escape from Jupiter (8269) **5.30** The Adventures of Tintin (506029) **5.55** Batman (671070) **6.30** Catchphrase (8631) **7.00** Roll with It! (3273) **7.30** The Fall Guy (25099) **8.30** Home to Roost (8728) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Put on by Cunning (22709) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (25896) **11.00** Cats Eyes (31631) **12.00** The Fall Guy (62007) **1.00am** Batman (47397) **1.30** GP (61465) **2.00** The Black Stallion (65378) **2.30** African Skies (77113) **3.00** GP (27533) **3.30** The Black Stallion (68465) **4.00** African Skies (52858) **4.30-5.00** Escape from Jupiter (28262)

MTV

7.30am Long Form (10148) **8.00** Morning Mix Featuring Cinematic (244490) **11.00** European Top 20 Countdown (29896) **12.00** Greatest Hits (20438) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (92029) **3.00** Video Juke Box (88877) **4.00** Hanging Out (1438) **6.00** Dial MTV (3709) **6.30** The Reel World (7761) **7.00** European Top 20 (28983) **8.00** Evening Mix (43964) **9.30** Amour (26631) **10.30** The State (90709) **11.00** MTV Unplugged (56231) **12.00** Videos (2705638) **5.00** Morning Mix (73113)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (1314506) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (5567790) **12.00** Heart and Soul (9264419) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (9273167) **2.00** Ten of the Best. Ozzy Osbourne (8277983) **3.00** Into the Music (7806525) **6.00** Happy Hour (9286631) **7.00** VH-1 for You (3824490) **8.00** Wednesday Review (4725815) **8.30** VH-1 to 1. Human League (4704322) **9.00** Ten of the Best China Crisis (3853902) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (3823761) **11.00** Tommy Vance is the Nightfly (2643902) **1.00am** Ten of the Best Jonathan Ross (7992939) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from 8am to 7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable. Including *5.00pm Saturday Nite Dance Ranch* **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Religious Programme **8.00** Breakfast Show **8.30** Viewers Voice **9.00** Titliyan **9.30** FILM: Anokha **12.00** Junoon **12.30pm** Show Theme **1.00** News **1.30** FILM: Mil Gayee Manzil Mujhe **4.00** Subhain **4.30** News **5.00** Spiv: Religious-akhir kyon **5.30** Action **6.00** Music Show **6.30** Ghazals **7.30** D.J. **8.30** News **8.40** Music **9.00** Shanti **9.30** FILM: Badi Bahen **12.30am** Viewers Voice **1.00** Titliyan **1.30** Movie: Palan **4.00** News **4.30** FILM: Chain Ka Naam Gadi

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Girl Crazy (1943) (53283506) **9.00 Neptune's Daughter (1949)** (37054728) **11.00 Random Harvest (1942)** (35044709) **1.10am Parlour, Bedroom & Bath (1931)** (42909533) **2.30-5.00 Girl Crazy (1943)** (52356026)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Ornette Coleman **8.00** Ana **8.30** Richard Strauss' *der Rosenkavalier* **12.00-1.00am** Mel Lewis

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
8.05am Horizon **9.00** World News **9.30** Time Out: Film '96 with Barry Norman **12.15pm** Panorama **1.15** World Business Report **1.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **2.25** Andrew Neil **3.05** Naked Hollywood **4.30** Time Out. Tomorrow's World **5.15** World Business Report **5.30** Time Out: Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld **8.05** Rough Guide to the Americas **9.30** Time Out: Food and Drink **10.00** World Report **12.10am** Newsnight **4.05** Rough Guide to the Americas

MOTOR RACING 42
AUSTRALIAN GRAND
PRIX FACING
THREAT OF SABOTAGE

SPORT

SIMON BARNES 43
IS SPORT GIVING
US TOO MUCH
OF A GOOD THING?

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 1996

Lara among possible successors

Pressure forces Richardson into retirement

By Simon Wilde

RICHIE RICHARDSON, the beleaguered and exhausted captain of the West Indies cricket team, avoided the executioner's axe by probably the only means available yesterday when he announced his intention to retire from the international game after the World Cup.

He made public his decision only hours before the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC) met in Antigua to nominate a captain for the series against New Zealand starting later this month. It had been widely expected that Richardson would be replaced after the manifest divisions within the team since it surrendered its 15-year unbeaten run in Test series last May, and the astonishing defeat at the hands of Kenya's amateurs last week.

Richardson said that he informed the WICBC of his decision "several days ago", which may mean that, after the humiliation against Kenya, he knew that if he did not resign, his dismissal was inevitable. Ironically, West Indies then gave one of their best performances by beating Australia in Jaipur on Monday, Richardson scoring a brilliant 93 not out to steer his side home.

Even before West Indies' decline from undisputed world champions, Richardson's form had long since collapsed under the unrelenting pressures of his job and the endless treadmill of the schedule that the West Indies board inflicts on its players. Richardson's statement, that he had made up his mind to retire after the World Cup as long ago as the end of the tour of England last August, only confirms how long-standing is his disenchantment.

The WICBC is expected to announce early today its choice of successor. Its decision is keenly awaited in many quarters, not least because there is no long-term candidate behind whom the team is sure to unite. If the board gets the decision wrong, the decline may have only just begun.

What the board might be wise to do is to make a short-term appointment — someone such as Courtney Walsh, who led the team ably in Richardson's absence — and then begin the overdue rebuilding under a younger man with the full tour of Australia later this year. The choice might then be between Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams.

The claims of Lara, the batting linchpin of his side, are the stronger, except that it was he who was most disruptive in England. He openly criticised Richardson's leadership, walked out on the team shortly after the Old Trafford Test, and was even then waiting for the day that has now arrived. That he should get the job after also refusing, at the eleventh hour, to join the recent tour of Australia, would set a dangerous example.

Rather as Lara is now, Richardson was once a brilliant stroke-maker, capable of taking a heavy toll of any bowler, but his spirit was broken early in his four-year reign. By 1994, when he unwisely agreed to play a second season for Yorkshire, he was suffering from acute fatigue, and returned to his native Antigua midway through the season.

Richardson, who first played for West Indies in 1983, took part in 86 Test matches, scoring 5,949 runs at an average of 44.39, with 16 centuries. He has also made 222 one-day international appearances, a tally only exceeded by three players, and the remaining task of this gracious, dignified man will be to take West Indies as near to winning a third World Cup as possible in the next ten days.

"I have enjoyed my 12 years of service to West Indies cricket and I think the time has come for me to make this important decision," he said. "I shall continue to support West Indies cricket 100 per cent and I am willing to serve my country in any capacity."

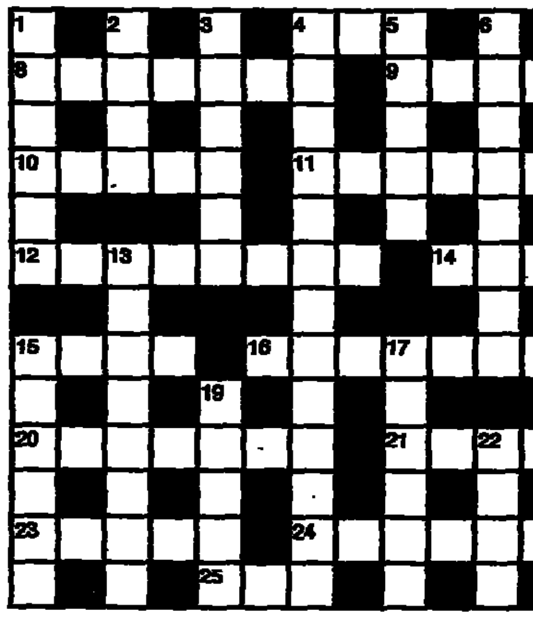
Meanwhile, Allan Lamb could be forced into premature retirement because of a dispute over his forthcoming autobiography. Lamb, 41, who gave up the Northamptonshire captaincy last year but intended to play on for one further season, has yet to sign a contract with the county because an agreement with HarperCollins, who are to publish his autobiography, could be in breach of Test and County Cricket Board regulations governing the vetting of players' books.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

S Africa's winning ways .. 46
World Cup extras 46

Richardson, right, who is giving up the West Indies captaincy after the World Cup, talks with Lara yesterday

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 722

ACROSS
4 Chafe; an impediment (3)
8 (Ship) come to halt (5,2)
9 Unsecured (5)
10 2nd and 6th US Presidents (5)
11 Highly strung (7)
12 Farcical misrepresentation (8)
14 Sword handle (4)
15 Take part in election (4)
16 Retaliation (8)
20 Sulphuric acid (7)
21 Go to see (5)
23 Conifer, red and white varieties (5)
24 Troglodyte (7)
25 Tibetan cattle; jabber (3)

DOWN
1 To baulk (6)
2 Art movement of nihilism, incongruity (4)
3 One signing rental agreement (6)
4 (Going) all 24 hours (5,3,5)
5 Accidentally admit (5)
6 Senile chamberlain (*Hamlet*) (8)
7 Wealthy fliers (3,3)
13 Bent, natural talent (8)
15 Lively (*mus.*) (6)
17 Bring back to life (6)
18 Dormant; unexpressed (6)
19 Flaming (5)
22 Japanese wrestling (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 721
ACROSS: 1 Begging bowl 8 Putto 9 Deplete 10 Dive 11 Cleaners 13 Barony 14 Seemly 17 Sorbonne 19 Leda 22 Cellini 23 Unzip 24 Come-uppance
DOWN: 1 Biped 2 Get over 3 Igor 4 Gadfly 5 Orphaned 6 Liege 7 Jersey 12 Encomium 13 Basics 15 Muezzin 16 In situ 18 Relic 20 Apple 21 Hump

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 717
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Magog 7 Lateral 8 Defiant 9 Obadiah 11 Loafer 13 Sang-froid 15 Joan of Arc 19 Tariff 21 Mongrel 23 Amateur 24 Sell-out 25 Ditty
DOWN: 1 Medal 2 Guffaw 3 Graves 4 Alto 5 Reader 6 Bavaria 10 Bogart 12 Raffle 14 Colonel 16 Niggle 17 Canard 18 Silent 20 Foray 22 Late

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is R A Ebrune, Southsea, Hampshire.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is S A Murgatroyd, Ashford, Kent. All flights subject to availability.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Bugner gives a pugnacious glare during a London press conference as he tries to drum up interest in his next bout

Bugner brags way out of corner

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

BOXING was taken back to the time of the fairground booths yesterday when Joe Bugner stopped by for a couple of hours in London to publicise his forthcoming bout with Scott Welch, of Shoreham, in Berlin on March 16.

In those good old, bad old days, anyone who fancied themselves with his fists and needed a bit of money could step into the ring to take on the resident pugilist and walk away with a pound or two.

Similarly, Aussie Joe, 46, being in need of money after his last thrashing by Frank Bruno eight years ago, decided to step into the ring once again. The bout with Welch has had to go to Germany because the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) would not give Bugner a licence to box in Britain.

After the defeat by Bruno, Bugner was not heard of until a couple of months ago when he surfaced after a series of financial misjudgments to beat Vince Cervi for the Australian title. He had another bout in February when he knocked out one West Turner in three rounds but the board did not think those opponents good enough to earn him a licence to box here.

Viewers of Sky television will be kept amused on the night of March 16 by the 18½-stone Australian's efforts in Berlin as they wait to see a meaningful contest between Naseem Hamed and Said Lawal in Glasgow and Bruno and Mike Tyson in Las Vegas.

Bugner is unlikely to come to any harm against Welch, who is not exactly a ball of fire even though he holds the British, Commonwealth and World Boxing Organisation (WBO) Intercontinental titles. As Welch is a small heavyweight and of little consequence in the world, beating him would mean nothing and it would not be surprising if Bugner decides to pocket the £200,000 he came for and go back into retirement again.

He looked tanned and passably trim in black and kept criticism at bay with his dimpled smile. "At my age, I can't afford to look too far ahead," he said. "I don't have any plans about what I am going to do. I have problems with my joints, and with my elbow. I have all sorts of problems, so I am taking one fight at a time.

"I won't come back here unless Frank Warren has 100 per cent assurance from this mob [the BBBC]. I don't want to give this mob even a part of my purse to sanction a fight that they don't deserve.

Bugner, who lost money invested in a vineyard and other business ventures and tried roles in cowboy movies, said that financially he was comfortable and was only having this bout to make himself more comfortable.

"I'm doing this for one reason only and that is to put myself back where I was once upon a time," he said.

It would be impossible to take the second Bugner comeback seriously. What is particularly depressing is the inflated idea of himself that he puts across in his efforts to hype his return.

He cannot really think of his listeners as nincompoops when he says even in jest: "If he [Welch] beats me, he beats a legend: the greatest fighter that this country has ever, ever had."

Welch was quick to counter: "I'm used to dealing with old people," he said. "I own old people's homes. After this fight, I'll have a room for you."

Bugner's main claim to fame is that he met Muhammad Ali twice, gave Joe Frazier a good fight at Earls Court in 1973, beat Henry Cooper on a controversial decision and took a punch on a chin better than most British heavyweights. However, a bout between him and Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe or Tyson would be impossible to contemplate.

Changes on the cards in netball

Louise Taylor looks at possible moves to drive growing violence off the court

The rugged and increasingly ruthless sport of netball could soon be subjected to a rigorous new disciplinary code. Plans to combat growing violence in the sport by introducing a yellow and red-card system similar to that employed in football are being piloted in New Zealand. If successful, the code will be introduced worldwide next year.

The illegal use of the elbow is one of the sport's mounting problems. Travelling with the England squad during last summer's world championships in Birmingham, I heard players describe a rival team as "absolute animals".

Several players from various competing countries departed with the scars to testify their involvement in a game which is not for the faint-hearted. The need to restore discipline is due to be addressed back in Birmingham this July when the International Federation of Netball Associations (IFNA) meets. New Zealand are expected to make an impassioned plea for change. Altering the rules is likely to appeal to a number of countries, England included. Liz Nicholl, chief executive of the all-England Netball Association (AENA), could endorse New Zealand's proposals at a rules review next year.

"I think the New Zealand pilot sounds very positive," Nicholl said. "The international conference next year could serve as a positive opportunity for keeping up with the changing requirements of spectators, television, sponsors and, above all, the athletes themselves. We have to stay in touch with the spirit of the times and look for ways to improve netball while staying faithful to the original."

Netball has evolved appreciably in its 101-year history and should not be expected to stand still now. As Betty Galsworthy, a former England coach, said yesterday: "I think there is a need for yellow and red cards because some players are constantly breaking the rules and disrupting the game."

Sendings-off — for rough and dangerous play — were introduced six years ago, but remain rare. Some say umpires should use their powers more readily and introducing cards may encourage more dismissals.

"Discipline has become a problem as the game has got more competitive," Anne Steele, an IFNA executive officer, said. "A lot goes on off the ball and behind the umpire's back, such as tripping, elbowing and pushing."

On the more creative side, other proposals include moving the goalnets away from the back-lines to permit shooting from 360 as opposed to 180 degrees and dividing the court into two instead of three. At present, players are restricted to one or two of the three zones, but may in future be afforded greater freedom and thus increased improvisational licence.

These, largely cosmetic, innovations would restrict the use of the umpire's whistle and stoppages. Significantly, television producers have frequently told officials that this needs to be reduced and Nicholl agreed: "There is far too much whistle at the moment. It upsets spectators and is something we need to address."

Australian players considering switch to England

By Christopher Irvine

AN EXTENSION of the ban on the breakaway Super League in Australia by the Sydney Federal Court today would hasten an anticipated exodus by as many as 40 players to rugby league in England.

Bradley Clyde, Laurie Daley and Ricky Stuart, Canberra's international trio, are among the players who are free agents, and outside the court's jurisdiction, who are considering moving to play in the European Super League, which starts at the end of this month and is unaffected by the Australian court ruling.

Long term, the prospect is one of continuing damage to the game's international dimension, unless the Australian Rugby League and Super League can agree a compromise. Yet the prospect of seeing talents such as Clyde, Daley and Stuart in this country is an enticing one for the game's supporters.

Warrington are one of three clubs to make an offer to Clyde, the Australia back-row forward. Stuart, his country's scrum half, and Daley, the stand-off half, are also being wooed by English clubs, although the big-money deals being talked of disguise the largely impoverished state of the sport in Britain.

Workington Town are no longer certain to be around for their opening Super League game, at home to St Helens, on March 31, because of another apparently failed takeover attempt.

Jim McTear, a local hotelier, and Tom Mitchell, the club's leading shareholder, could not reach agreement yesterday. "We find it impossible to move matters forward because it is not clear what Mr Mitchell wants to do," McTear said.

Meanwhile, the club reportedly owes the Inland Revenue £140,000 and is under threat of a winding-up order.

In the unlikely event of Workington dropping out altogether, it is not impossible that the Cumbrian club's place in the European competition could be taken up by one of two clubs specifically set up by the Australian Super League.

These are Adelaide Rams and Hunter Mariners, who have been prevented by the court from kicking off in Australia.

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